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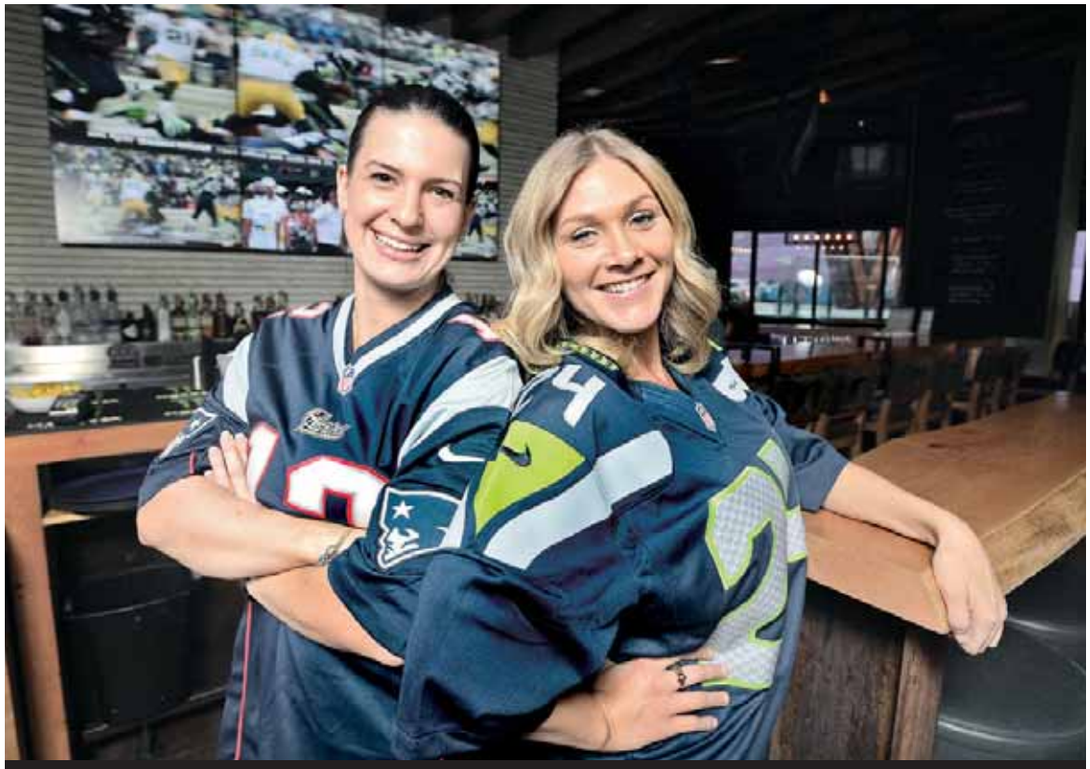
Bye-bye $13 million

Man has right numbers — seven seconds too late. Page 10.



12 NORTH SET TO SOAR

Charles Bar employees Krystal Mosionier, right, and Chelsea Harding are ready for Super Bowl Sunday. And according to a new Insights West poll, so is the rest of Vancouver, which has adopted the Seattle Seahawks as its own team in recent years. Super Bowl coverage, pages 4, 32, 33 & 34. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Furlong wants sexual abuse suit dismissed

Court. Accuser went to a different school at time of alleged crimes, says lawyer

A B.C. judge has reserved a decision on whether to throw out a sexual-abuse lawsuit against former Vancouver Olympics CEO John Furlong.

Grace West filed the suit in 2013, alleging Furlong sexually abused her while he was a teacher at Immaculata School in Burns Lake in 1969 and 1970.

Furlong's lawyer has applied to have West's lawsuit dismissed, arguing that she went to a different school at the time of the alleged abuse.

B.C. Supreme Court Judge Miriam Gropper reserved her decision after a hearing on the application Thursday. It was not immediately clear when she will deliver her ruling.

The application claims that West's name does not appear in student records for Immaculata and that records show she was attending St. Joseph's School in Smithers.

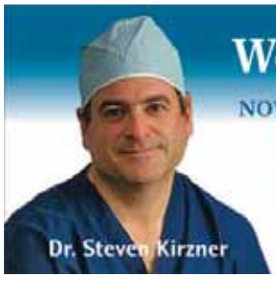
When Furlong's lawyers interviewed West in 2014 as part of pre-trial proceedings, she was asked to list the schools she had attended but Immaculata was not among them, according to the application.

She was unable to initially remember the name of the school she attended where she said the abuse occurred, Furlong's lawyers say, adding that after a break she said the school's name was Immaculata.

Records for St. Joseph's School show that a Jessie West with the same birth date and father's name attended from 1966 to 1970, according to the court documents, which also say that West went by Jessie — her middle name — until she was 16 years old.

Furlong has vehemently denied the allegations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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NEWS

Health

Measles outbreak prompts officials to urge vaccination

With spring break looming, a B.C. health authority is urging parents to vaccinate their children in the wake of a recent outbreak of measles at Disneyland.

Fraser Health spokeswoman Tasleem Juma said the disease outbreak serves as a reminder for people to check their immunization status before going on vacation.

"We do live in a very small world," she told Metro. "People are travelling all the time, and there's always a risk of illnesses crossing borders and countries."

More than 30 per cent of children in the Vancouver area have not been vaccinated by their second birthday as per the recommended immunization schedule, according to Fraser Health.

Last March, a measles outbreak in the Fraser Valley region saw more than 400 patients require hospitalization in one month, according to Fraser Health.

The health authority recommends children receive vaccinations at two, four, six, 12 and 18 months of age, with a follow-up immunization known as a booster at age four. Juma said children are not considered fully protected against vaccine-preventable diseases until they have completed the recommended immunizations.

"The best way to protect yourself and your children is to get immunized," she said.

The measles outbreak that originated in Disneyland has grown to 95 cases, mostly in California.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

A rendering of the 26-storey Cadillac Fairview tower proposed for the parking lot between the historic Waterfront station and The Landing building. CONTRIBUTED

Design panel rejects Waterfront tower

Urban development. Decision likely won't stop the building's eventual construction

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

The city's urban-design panel has rejected the proposal for a tower sandwiched between two historic buildings on the edge of Gastown.

But their decision to deny the controversial 26-storey office building designed by B+H Architects and Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture — it's been described as "a horror" by Vancouver's former top planner — doesn't mean there will never be a tower on the parking lot between Waterfront Station and the 110-year-old Landing building.

The panel doesn't really have a problem with the tower itself, said panel chair Ryan Bragg, an architect and principal at Perkins+Will.

"It's not that the building is in the wrong place, it's how it comes to the ground," Bragg said Thursday. "The real issue was with the public realm and where the pedestrians are going to be."

He expects the architects will come back with a proposal that makes changes to the courtyard around the building and the lowest five floors but keeps the tower's height and density the same.

"My gut feeling is we're not going to see significant changes," he said.

One of the difficulties with the proposal is that the site, an excellent spot for tourists to take photos of the North Shore mountains, is perceived as public space even though it's a private parking lot.

"It's a big change for people who think, 'Oh, we're going to lose this,'" he said.

The site is already zoned for an office tower, so the proponents only need to pass through the development permit board and do not need a public hearing.

The development permit board meeting, originally scheduled for March, will be rescheduled when the architects redesign the tower. The new design must be presented to the Gastown Heritage Advisory Committee and the Vancouver Heritage Commission before the board meeting, wrote the city's assistant director of planning Anita Molaro in an email.

"Timing is entirely in the applicant's hands in terms of the need to redesign in accordance with the urban design panel's comments," Molaro wrote.

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B.C.'s support for Seahawks rivals that of hometown teams

Super Bowl. Survey shows Seattle NFL team has plenty of support north of the border, but nobody is going to 'walk away' from the CFL

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

As if the sudden flood of blue-and-green regalia throughout the city wasn't a giveaway, a new poll has found that Seattle Seahawks support from Vancouverites rivals that of hometown teams.

Insights West asked British Columbians about their adopted team ahead of the Super Bowl and found that 21 per cent of respondents consider themselves either "hard core" or "regular" fans of the NFL franchise south of the border.

Another 23 per cent consider themselves "occasional" or "playoff" followers of the Seahawks.

While Vancouver Canucks support still reigns supreme, the love for the Seahawks is comparable to that of the BC Lions (30 per cent of respondents consider themselves fans, 38 per cent followers) and the Vancouver Whitecaps (15 per cent fans, 30 per cent followers).

That's no surprise to Chris Hannan, general manager of Gastown's Charles Bar.

The bar has become a regular gathering spot for NFL fans, and its Super Bowl screening party has been sold out for weeks now.

"If the Seahawks play, we get comparable level of fans coming in as we do for hockey games," said Hannan. "Vancouver has really taken on the Seahawks as their adopted team. The fan base and passion has been great for business."

Insights West vice-president Mario Canseco said there seems to be enough love from sports fans to go around.

Support for the Lions remains strong, and the Whitecaps have seen double-digit growth in terms of support since they joined Major League Soccer in 2011.

"We're not seeing a situation where the Seahawks' success is making anyone walk away from three-down (CFL) football," he said.

Given the rise in Seahawks fandom in B.C., it's also no surprise who British Columbians are cheering for on Sunday.

The poll found 63 per cent of respondents are rooting for Seattle, compared to just five per cent for the New England Patriots (32 per cent are undecided or don't care).

Those "few brave souls" sporting Patriots gear at the Charles on Sunday could be feeling mightily outnumbered, Hannan laughed.

Raising the 12th man flag

A blue-and-white flag backing the Seattle Seahawks in Sunday's Super Bowl has joined the Maple Leaf in the skies above British Columbia's capital. Vancouver will follow suit Friday morning by raising a Seattle Seahawks flag on the ceremonial pole at city hall.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charles Bar employees Krystal Mosionier, right, and Chelsea Harding are ready for Super Bowl Sunday.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

UBC acquires 13th-century document signed by 2 popes

UBC Library has acquired a medieval Papal bull. COURTESY UBC

The UBC library's newest addition is anything but new.

The university announced on Thursday that it has procured a document that's nearly 800 years old that's been signed by not one, but two Catholic popes.

The medieval Papal bull, a legal decree issued in Latin by Pope Innocent IV in 1245, joins the UBC Library's rare books collection.

It has also been digitized.

The document, signed by Pope Innocent and 13 cardinals (one of which would become Pope Nicholas III) and sent to the Italian convent of San Michele in Trento, is one of the oldest documents of its kind in Canada.

"UBC has acquired something really exceptional," said Richard Pollard, of the UBC's department of History in a statement. "It's very useful as a representation of medieval documents generally."

The bull was purchased for approximately $15,000 from an antiquarian book and manuscript seller in London, England last May.

Library conservator Anne Lama then carefully restored the document, placing it in a humidification chamber to soften thick creases caused by being folded for centuries.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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Crime

84-year-old robbed, beaten by man he tried to help

Vancouver police have arrested a man suspected of robbing and beating an 84-year-old man who had tried to help him.

John Edward Barker, 54, was arrested last Sunday and charged with possession of stolen property, according to police. Police allege a man, believed to be Barker, knocked on the front door of a home on Vancouver's West Side on Jan. 15. The homeowner answered and the man told him he was working as a gardener in the area and that his car had been towed. He asked to borrow $6.70 for bus fare, which the homeowner gave him.

The man returned again the next day and asked for more money. The homeowner refused the third time, but the man grabbed the victim's wallet and fled.

A violent struggle ensued and the victim sustained cuts and bruises.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Crime

Serial robber strikes again in B.C.

A serial bank robber struck again, this time in northeastern B.C. RCMP issued a warning this week saying the man robbed eight banks over an eight-week period in Alta., Sask. and Man.

RCMP in Dawson Creek say a man fitting the same description walked into a bank on Wednesday, produced a firearm and demanded money.

He left with an undisclosed amount of cash.

The first robbery police recorded was Dec. 1 in Princeton, B.C. Eight days later the man was 200 kilometres north where he held up a Vernon financial institution. Between Dec. 19 and Jan. 21, the same person held up banks in High River, Alta., Merritt, B.C., Swift Current, Sask., Lethbridge, Alta., Claresholm, Alta., and Langley, B.C.

Police have released photos of the man entering the banks and are asking the public to help identify him.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court

Trial date set for fatal 2010 boat crash

A man charged after a fatal boat crash on B.C.'s Shuswap Lake is expected to go to trial in mid-February.

Leon Reinbrecht is charged with criminal negligence causing death and criminal negligence causing bodily harm in the death of 53-year-old Kenneth Brown.

The accident occurred at the end of the July 2010 Canada Day fireworks display when a five-metre-long speedboat crashed into a houseboat, killing Brown and injuring eight of the 16 people aboard both vessels.

The Crown is scheduled to call as many as 50 witnesses to testify in the B.C. Supreme Court trial that is also set to hear from Reinbrecht.

If he is found guilty, the defence is expected to file a constitutional challenge based on alleged trial delays by the Crown. Reinbrecht was charged in December 2011 following a 17-month investigation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boater says pleasure crafts not responsible for dirty water

Metro Vancouver. Medical officer raised concerns about small vessels dumping waste

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Local boater Adrian Patheiger doesn't want the transient boating community to get a bad rap for the unusually bad water quality around Metro Vancouver last summer.

Patheiger, who has anchored his boat in False Creek frequently over the past two years, was surprised when a Vancouver Coastal Health medical health officer raised the alarm about boats in response to Transport Canada's proposal to let small vessels dump untreated sewage closer to shore.

The health authority is concerned looser rules could lead to beach closures after a summer where swimming was frequently banned at Sunset Beach and West Vancouver beaches.

While Patheiger absolutely agrees that boats shouldn't be allowed to dump closer to shore, he believes the few hundred people who moor their boats in transient locations around town are "such a minor contribution to the problem."

"We've got a massive growing population of people, we've got dog feces all over the beach," he said from the Creekside dock on Thursday. "It's not just the boats coming, but how many people are moving here every year … you just know the water didn't look as clear as it usually does."

There's no dumping allowed in False Creek, Patheiger said, and while he acknowledged some people break the rules, he and other responsible boat owners have black water tanks onboard to hold sewage until it can be dumped at a pump station.

"We live in a world-class city, we've got to take care of it," he said.

He questioned whether the sewage treatment plants that serve the region can handle the volume of waste due to the population influx.

But Metro Vancouver's general manager of liquid waste services Simon So said the wastewater treatment plants are perfectly able to handle the waste.

Every year they do more than 150,000 tests of discharges to ensure the treated wastewater is compliant with provincial standards. Last year, the plants were 99.8 per cent in compliance, So said. The unusually high E. coli levels could have been caused by warm and dry weather, the number of beach users, dogs, geese and boaters, he said.

The Lions Gate and Iona Island wastewater treatment plants must, however, undergo upgrades by 2020 and 2030 respectively to meet federal standards.

Boater Adrian Patheiger with his dog Brinx on the dock in front of the Creekside community centre. Patheiger has frequently anchored his boat in False Creek over the past two years. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Lengthy condo parking dispute results in sale of unit

A Port Coquitlam couple's dispute over a parking spot resulted in a years-long legal battle that ended this week with a judge ordering their suite be sold after the couple was repeatedly found in contempt of court.

Cheng-Fu Bea and his wife Huei-Chi Yang Bea recently appealed the contempt finding made by the B.C. Supreme Court judge but lost once again.

In a 2-1 ruling at the B.C. Court of Appeal, the contempt finding was upheld and the couple's condo suite was ordered sold to remedy the continuing contempt for failing to pay fines imposed by a strata council.

The dispute first arose in 2006 when the strata corporation assigned a parking spot to Cheng-Fu Bea, which he refused to park in, resulting in $1,000 worth of fines for breaching the condo complex's parking bylaw.

Bea's wife, who owns the couple's condo, took the matter to court and lost. She filed two more petitions in court and lost again, with the court eventually ruling Mrs. Bea was a vexatious litigant, which resulted in the court registry refusing to accept any more filings or court documents.

The Beas repeatedly disobeyed that order and were subsequently found in contempt of court.

The matter resulted in 51 court appearances before 37 different judges, which cost the small 31-unit Port Coquitlam complex an estimated $250,000 in legal fees.

A B.C. Supreme Court judge finally ruled last year that the only way to put an end to the continuing contempt-of-court orders was to make an order for seizure and sale of property, to be handled by the strata council.

Once again, the condo owner appealed. But the Appeal Court this week upheld the lower-court ruling, finding the court-ordered sale was fit punishment to remedy the contempt.

"This power is constitutionally protected as a core aspect of a superior court's inherent jurisdiction to punish for contempt," ruled Appeal Court Justice Nicole Garson and Justice Anne MacKenzie.

In a dissenting ruling, Appeal Court Justice Richard Goepel disagreed with his judicial colleagues. In his opinion, "the court's inherent jurisdiction to sentence for contempt was limited by the provisions of the Supreme Court Civil Rules, and the chambers judge did not have the jurisdiction to order the sale of the appellant's property."

"It's incredibly unfair," the strata council's lawyer, Phil Dougan, said of the court case dragging on for so many years. The Beas' suite is only worth about $170,000, he said, so the other condo owners will have to pay the remaining court bills.

The split decision gives the appellants an automatic right to appeal to the nation's highest court, the Supreme Court of Canada. NEAL HALL/METRO

Students raise a stink about garbage

Environment. Capilano University's waste audit aims to drive down amount of organics being tossed into trash

THANDI FLETCHER
thandi.fletcher@metronews.ca

Capilano University students are getting ready to talk trash on Tuesday for the university's annual waste audit.

About 200 students and staff will don safety gloves and aprons to sort through a day's worth of garbage, the equivalent of about a half-ton, in a bid to boost awareness of recycling habits.

"The idea is to look at who we are as consumers and what are we throwing in the garbage that actually shouldn't be there," facilities director Susan Doig told Metro. "We had no idea how much garbage we would create in a day that should have actually gone into an organics waste stream."

Capilano student Biljana Radovic, who helped organize this year's event, said sorting through garbage at past audits was an eye-opening experience.

"It taught me why it is so important to recycle and … that the lack of knowledge is the main cause of unsuccessful recycling," she said in an email interview. "Most importantly it changed my habits."

Since the first waste audit in 2011, Doig said the university has seen the amount of organic waste being thrown into the garbage drop from 69 per cent to 40 per cent.

This year, Doig said the goal is to drive that number down to 25 per cent.

New to this year's audit is an "e-waste" component where community members can drop off old electronics like computers, telephones, smart devices, cables and batteries.

Capilano University's waste audit takes place Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. behind the Sportsplex at 2055 Purcell Way in North Vancouver.

Capilano University students sort through garbage at a waste audit event in 2013. CONTRIBUTED

Insurance. ICBC shares top fraud files of 2014

Here's a helpful tip for fraudsters out there: Don't blog about your motorcycle excursion through South America after telling ICBC you were seriously injured in a crash.

The provincial insurance agency provided media with a roundup of its top fraud cases of 2014 on Thursday.

One of those cases involved a woman who was a passenger in a vehicle that was rear-ended by another vehicle.

She told ICBC the crash caused long-term injury, including ongoing neck pain and headaches.

When ICBC investigators took a look at the file, they found the woman was soon chronicling her six-month-long motorcycle trip through South America on a blog, including rides through extremely rough terrain.

The claim went to trial and she was awarded $12,000, two-thirds less than what she'd originally asked for.

Another case involved a man claiming his perfectly fine vehicle was stolen at a local movie theatre.

The truck was later found abandoned and torched.

Investigators quickly traced the incident back to the owner, finding that the truck had serious mechanical problems prior to the arson.

They also used his cellphone records to prove the man was at the scene where the burnt vehicle was found.

The owner pleaded guilty to providing a false statement, was fined $4,000 and was ordered to pay ICBC back more than $3,000 for investigative and claims costs.

In total, ICBC advanced 132 charges to Crown counsel against 100 defendants last year. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Langford

Two in custody after shooting

Two men are in custody after a shooting earlier this week in Langford on southern Vancouver Island.

Saanich police arrested a 22-year-old Victoria man Wednesday at a home in the 3200 block of Quadra Street.

A 21-year-old man was also arrested at that residence on suspicion of being an accessory after the fact.

West Shore RCMP say no charges have been laid and officers continue to search for the handgun involved in the shooting.

A 38-year-old man remains in serious condition in hospital after the shooting on Tuesday night.

Mounties say the suspects and the injured man are previously known to them. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kamloops

Worker died after getting trapped by tire: Coroner

The B.C. Coroners Service says a man who died at his workplace in the province's Interior became trapped by a very large tire.

Thirty-six-year-old Nicklas Taylor was a foreman at a Fountain Tire facility in Kamloops.

The service says he was unloading a trailer-load of tires when he somehow became trapped.

He died at the scene.

Fountain Tire vice-president Nelson Tonn has said the company is co-operating with authorities and an internal investigation will be conducted.

WorkSafeBC and the coroners service are also investigating.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Missed Coupland art? Google it

Technology. Street View posts online, 360-degree tour of popular exhibit

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

There's no need to worry if you missed Douglas Coupland's wildly popular exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery this summer — all you need to do is Google it.

For the first time, the Google Street View team brought its cameras to the gallery and, after months of behind-the-scenes digitizing works, has posted an online, 360-degree tour of the exhibit titled "everywhere is anywhere is everything."

Internet visitors can "walk" through the exhibit in the order it was intended, zoom in on pieces they like and click on descriptions of individual artworks. (To quote one of Coupland's art pieces in the exhibit: "Mind = Blown.")

While chief curator Daina Augaitis believes that nothing can replicate the actual experience of being in the same room with artwork, she said the virtual tour is the next best thing.

"It exposes the exhibition to a wider audience," she said. "I think all of these different dimensions are kind of ways to keep the ideas active and out there in the world."

Coupland is one of the first Canadian artists to have his work featured on Google Street View. The exhibit was a perfect fit for the virtual forum considering how Coupland's work explores our culture's obsession with technology.

"Coupland is obviously very interested and very keen on technology and how it's used, how it changes the brain even," Augaitis said. "He was very keen to experiment with this."

Online

Check out the virtual tour at: www.google.com/culturalinstitute/collection/vancouver-art-gallery

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TEACHERS ARE WATCHING
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MAY EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE BE SEPTEMBER 10
I AGREE TO THE ABO TERMS AND CONDITI
MIND = BLOWN
FEAR OF MISSING OUT
MEMORY IS IRREVERSIBLY ADDICTIVE
Douglas Coupland at his exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery on May 29, 2014. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Home where B.C. dad killed his children ordered destroyed

Allan Schoenborn METRO FILE

The home where a British Columbia man killed his three children nearly seven years ago has been ordered destroyed by a city in the province's Interior.

Allan Schoenborn stabbed his daughter and then smothered his sons at their Merritt home in April 2008, leaving their bodies to be found by their mother. A resolution passed by city council Tuesday said the owners have until March 15 to destroy and remove the home.

Neither the mayor nor the chief administrative officer responded to emailed requests for an interview Thursday evening, but Coun. Kurt Christopherson said the issue was on council's radar for some time and also raised the question "who would live there?"

"It was very difficult on the neighbourhood to continue to have a reminder of a terrible tragedy," he said.

The resolution passed by council said the home was uninhabitable and abandoned and the city has received many complaints about its dilapidated condition since 2012.

The city unsuccessfully tried over the past few years to have the owners remedy the situation, it added, before declaring the property a "nuisance" under the Community Charter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not criminally responsible

Schoenborn was found not criminally responsible for the deaths, has spent the subsequent years at a Vancouver forensic hospital, and was denied escorted absences.

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Politics

Omnibus bill expected to widen anti-terror powers

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will unveil Friday details of an omnibus bill that will enact two new laws, and make amendments to the criminal code, the CSIS Act, the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act among others.

It's not clear whether the Conservatives are prepared to boost the budgets of national security agencies. However, the Official Opposition insists the question of resources is the main one, and it is skeptical of the need for new laws.

Harper will press the need to increase information-sharing among federal departments and agencies, authorize CSIS to disrupt or diminish threats earlier in an investigation, deter and order the removal of online content that promotes terrorism, enhance "no-fly" rules for airline travelers deemed a risk, and lower the evidentiary threshold to issue peace bonds — court-ordered restrictions on a person's liberty and communications.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jobs

Tim Hortons cuts 350 staff at HQ, regional offices

About 350 employees lost their jobs at Tim Hortons this week in cuts focused mainly on the company's headquarters and regional offices.

A spokeswoman said that all affected employees had been notified and the layoffs were within commitments made to Industry Canada to maintain certain job levels.

In total, roughly 15 per cent of the 2,300 employees were included in the reduction, centred on its headquarters as well as regional offices and distribution centres across the country.

Tim Hortons merged with Burger King under Restaurant Brands International late last year and the new owner was widely expected to cut staff.

Part of Ottawa's stipulations in approving the merger restricted the company from laying off more than 20 per cent of employees across its offices nationwide, said Industry Canada representative Jake Enwright.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Aboriginal issues

Manitoba worst province for First Nations: Reports

Federal government documents show Manitoba is one of the worst places for First Nations people to live in Canada and the worst among the provinces.

Internal reports from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development show Manitoba natives are more likely to grow up in poverty, drop out of school, live off social assistance in dilapidated housing and suffer family violence.

Their life expectancy is also eight years shorter than that of other Manitobans. The 10 regional updates spanning 2012 to 2014 lay out the poor living conditions on Manitoba reserves. The 2014 report noted that, at 28 per cent, the province has the lowest high-school graduation rate for First Nations in the country.

Another update dated September 2013 notes that 25 per cent of First Nations children live in poverty. In Manitoba, it said, 62 per cent of aboriginal children live below the poverty line.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$13 million lost in seven seconds

Lottery. Supreme Court decides against hearing Joel Ifergan's argument that a delay in processing his Super 7 ticket cost him dearly

A lot can happen in seven seconds. Just ask the Quebec man who says that brief period cost him $13.5 million.

Joel Ifergan bought two lottery tickets in May 2008, but the one with the eventual winning combination popped out of the terminal seven seconds after the 9 p.m. deadline.

As Ifergan discovered the next day, his Super 7 ticket had all the right numbers but was actually dated for the following week. A delay in Loto-Quebec's computer system caused a lag in the issuing of the ticket for that night's $27-million jackpot, which was ultimately awarded to another person.

Ifergan argued the delay cost him dearly and that he should be entitled to one-half of the windfall — but the Supreme Court disagreed.

On Thursday, the country's highest court ruled it wouldn't hear his case against Loto-Quebec, effectively ending Ifergan's $100,000 legal battle. He'd already lost in Quebec Superior Court in 2012 and in the Quebec Court of Appeal in 2014.

"My crusade is up, I've done all I can, I spent enough money going to the Supreme Court," Ifergan said in a telephone interview.

"If they decide that the Crown corporations are above contract laws and the Consumer Protection Act, well then good luck to us. I'm extremely disappointed, but I think what's more important is the Canadian people should be worried."

As the 9 p.m. deadline loomed on May 23, 2008, Ifergan made the purchase: The first ticket came in before the deadline but the ticket with the fateful numbers burped out seven seconds after the cut-off.

Ifergan alleged the transaction was concluded on time and that both tickets were in the system at 8:59:47. What cost him, he says, is the 10 seconds it takes for a ticket to emerge.

"The contract was crystallized at 8:59 p.m.," he said. "How they process their thing, that's their problem, not mine, and I end up being penalized."

Ifergan says the Quebec lottery board works differently from its provincial counterparts.

"In the rest of Canada, they shut down at 9 p.m. and you can't buy a ticket," he said. "But everything in their system prior to 9 p.m. gets processed and you get a ticket, even if it comes out five minutes later."

Ifergan was out for ice cream and made a split-second decision that evening to buy a few Quick Pick tickets at a local convenience store.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joel Ifergan stands beside a copy of his lottery ticket Thursday at his home. Ifergan claims he is owed $13 million for having the winning numbers, but the ticket was printed seven seconds after the deadline. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top soldier defends troops directing airstrikes in Iraq

Canada's top soldier says he authorized troops to help Iraqi security forces to target Islamic State fighters, but denies that can strictly speaking be called a "combat" role.

Speaking before a parliamentary committee on Thursday, Chief of Defence Staff Tom Lawson told MPs that Canadian Forces have operated within their noncombat mandate, even while directing CF-18 airstrikes.

Lawson told the committee he "had not anticipated" Canadian special forces would be in a position to safely direct airstrikes when he ruled them out last October.

"What I had not anticipated at that time in October was that those tactical air controllers would be able to develop techniques that would allow them, in the relative safety of their advise and assist positions, to be able to help the … Iraqi security forces bring weaponry of coalition bombers to bear," Lawson explained his reversal.

"So in fact I provided them, within the advise and assist mission, the authority to go ahead with that, well within the mandate given to us by the government," he said.

Lawson, flanked by Defence Minister Rob Nicholson and Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, found himself in the middle of a war of words about the precise role of Canada's fight against Islamic State extremists.

By the numbers

63%

A new poll shows support remains strong for CF-18 air strikes in Iraq. The poll, released by Forum Research, found that 63 per cent of Canadians somewhat or strongly approve the Conservatives' decision to send six CF-18 fighter jets for airstrikes in Iraq.

For the government, the mission has "evolved" since it was approved by Parliament — without the support of the opposition NDP and Liberals — late last year. This evolution, for the Conservatives, explains why Canadian soldiers found themselves under fire on the front lines three separate times, despite a mission limited to advising and assisting Iraqi troops.

For the opposition, Canada's role in the fight against the Islamic State has not been defined, no budget has been released — Nicholson refused to give cost estimates again on Thursday — and no clear goal outside of "degrading and destroying" the self-proclaimed caliphate has been outlined.

Frustration among opposition MPs was evident, in the face of Conservative backbenchers suggesting they're insufficiently behind the troops for asking those questions.

"This isn't about who can say that they support the troops more than the other," NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar said.

"This is about our job as parliamentarians … We're trying to get some honest answers and some transparency. What's the cost of the war? You know, we went down this path in Afghanistan when we slept-walked into Kandahar without having a defined mission, without proper parliamentary oversight."

NDP defence critic Jack Harris has asked Speaker Andrew Scheer to look into whether Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Nicholson misled the House of Commons when they stated Canadian troops would not accompany Iraqi forces to the front line.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ISIL

Chief of Defence Staff Tom Lawson said 80 per cent of Canadian special forces' time in Iraq is spent in classrooms and training Iraqi forces. But he said that the trainees are through basic skills, and are looking to fight ISIL.

- Canadian special forces will continue to be kept away from combat while on their noncombat mission, Lawson said.

Gordie Howe is doing well after stem cell treatment for stroke in Mexico. PAUL HORTON/NEUE STUDIOS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Howe's therapy raises questions

Stem cell treatment. Legendary player's son, Marty, says his dad's stroke symptoms improved greatly after sessions in Mexico

Gordie Howe's son says the hockey legend's stroke symptoms have improved since his treatment with stem cells at a Mexican clinic in early December and he wants him to repeat the procedure.

But regenerative medicine experts say there's no scientific evidence such therapies work, and in some cases they can be seriously harmful or even deadly.

The 86-year-old Howe suffered two disabling strokes late last year.

In December, the family took him to a Tijuana clinic where he received stem cell injections as part of a clinical trial being run under a licensing agreement with Stemedica Cell Technologies of San Diego, Calif.

The experimental treatment involved injecting neural stem cells into Howe's spinal canal, along with intravenous infusions of mesenchymal stem cells, which are found in bone marrow, fat and umbilical cord blood.

Marty Howe said his father can walk again, his speech is improving and he is regaining some of the weight he lost following the strokes.

"After his stem cell treatment, the doctor told us it was kind of an awakening of the body, and it was all that," he told The Canadian Press while in Calgary for a hockey promotion event Tuesday. "They call it the miracle of stem cells and it was nothing less than a miracle."

However, experts in the field question whether stem cells are responsible for Howe's improvement and caution that most so-called stem cell therapies have not gone through rigorous scientific trials, nor have they been approved as treatments by Health Canada or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Mick Bhatia, director of McMaster University's Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute, said there are many unknowns in Howe's case, such as how many stem cells were administered, whether tests were done to see if they migrated to the targeted area of the body, whether they took up residence where they might have some effect — or did they simply disappear?

"Is this a transient effect, or is it really a perceived or somewhat of a placebo effect and is there something really happening? Scientifically and biologically that is important," Bhatia said Wednesday from Hamilton.

And because Howe received adult stem cells produced from donor cells, he may have needed to take drugs to prevent an immune reaction as well as anti-inflammatory medications, he said.

While he can't speak specifically about Stemedica or Clinica Santa Clarita in Tijuana, where Howe was treated, Michael Rudnicki, scientific director of Canada's Stem Cell Network is blunt in his assessment of many of these clinics. "This is real snake oil ... The whole design of these clinics is to separate money from patients by hyping hope, and it's very harmful."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Be cautious, experts warn

"With eyes wide open."

That's how patients need to look at purported stem cell therapies, said Michael Rudnicki, scientific director of Canada's Stem Cell Network.

The Stem Cell Network has prepared an information booklet available online to help patients assess potential treatments.

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Cold War. Gorbachev warns West of Hot War

Ex-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev says the confrontation between Russia and the West could spill into all-out war.

More than 5,100 people have been killed in a bloody conflict in eastern Ukraine between government troops and pro-Russian separatists. Ukraine accuses Russia of aiding the separatists while Russia says the West is behind Ukraine's attempts to retake the rebel-held areas.

Gorbachev, in comments to the Interfax news agency, said Thursday the West has "dragged" Russia into a new Cold War and warned of risks of a military confrontation.

"I can no longer say that this Cold War will not lead to a 'Hot War.' I fear that they could risk it," he was quoted as saying.

Ex-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. GETTY IMAGES

Gorbachev was one of the architects of the peaceful dismantling of communist rule in eastern Europe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malaysia. Government says Flight 370 an accident

Malaysia's government formally declared still-missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 an accident on Thursday and said all those on board were presumed dead, paving the way for compensation claims but angering victims' families still waiting for evidence of the plane's fate.

Civil aviation chief Azharuddin Abdul Rahman said the search for the jet would continue and "remains a priority." The Boeing 777 disappeared on March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board.

The plane is believed to have crashed in the southern Indian Ocean, off the coast of western Australia. No confirmed debris has ever been found.

The declaration will help facilitate financial claims by families, and Malaysia Airlines is ready to proceed with the compensation process, Azharuddin said.

"After 327 days and based on all available data as well as circumstances ... survivability in the defined area is highly unlikely. It is therefore with the heaviest heart and deepest sorrow that we officially declare Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 an accident," he said in a pre-recorded statement broadcast on Malaysian television.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lebanon border

Netanyahu blasts Iran over Hezbollah attack

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday blamed Iran for a deadly flare-up along the Lebanese border, the deadliest escalation on the disputed frontier since the 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel.

The violence erupted Wednesday when Lebanese Hezbollah militants fired a salvo of anti-tank missiles at an Israeli military convoy, killing two soldiers and wounding seven.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt

Militants attacks kill at least 25

Militants struck more than a dozen army and police targets in the restive Sinai Peninsula with simultaneous attacks involving a car bomb and mortar rounds on Thursday, killing at least 25 people, including civilians, officials said. An Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant affiliate, previously known as Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, launched several attacks against the police and the army in Sinai, particularly following the overthrow of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in 2013.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Safi al-Kaseasbeh, centre, father of Jordanian pilot Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh, who is held by ISIL, reads a statement for the media urging his son's captors to have mercy on a fellow Muslim and spare his life, in Amman, Jordan on Thursday. NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Loved ones plead for ISIL hostages

Jordan. Prisoner swap would run counter to government's stance on extremism

The father of a Jordanian fighter pilot and the wife of a Japanese journalist held by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) pleaded for their loved ones' lives after a possible prisoner swap wasn't carried out by a deadline of sunset Thursday.

The extremists had demanded that Jordan release a female al-Qaida prisoner from death row, and they purportedly threatened in an audio message to kill the airman if she was not freed by the deadline.

After sundown in the Middle East, there was no word on the fate of Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh and journalist Kenji Goto, and the families' agonizing wait dragged on.

"We received no assurances from anyone that he is alive," Jawdat al-Kaseasbeh, a brother of the pilot, told The Associated Press. "We have no clue about where the negotiations stand now. We are waiting, just waiting."

The possibility of a swap was raised Wednesday when Jordan said it was willing to trade Sajida al-Rishawi, the al-Qaida prisoner, for the pilot.

However, the audio message purportedly posted by ISIL only said the pilot would be killed if al-Rishawi was not delivered to the Turkish border by the deadline. There was no mention of Goto and no word on whether the pilot would be traded for the woman. The authenticity of the recording could not be verified independently by The Associated Press.

On Thursday afternoon, Jordan's government spokesman, Mohammed al-Momani, signalled that, in any case, a swap was on hold because the hostage-takers had not delivered proof the pilot is still alive.

Al-Rishawi, 44, faces death by hanging for her role in a suicide bombing, one of three simultaneous attacks on Amman hotels in November 2005 that killed 60 people. She survived because her belt of explosives didn't detonate. She initially confessed, but later recanted, saying she was an unwilling participant.

Al-Rishawi, who is from the Iraqi city of Ramadi, has close family ties to the Iraqi branch of al-Qaida, a precursor of ISIL. Three of her brothers were al-Qaida operatives killed in fighting in Iraq.

Jordan has faced tough choices in the hostage drama.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police detain boy, 8, in Charlie Hebdo case

Police detained and questioned an eight-year-old boy from the south of France who claimed to support the men who attacked the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, drawing criticism Thursday that France's measures to prevent people from defending terrorism have gone overboard.

Dozens of people have been arrested and accused of defending terrorism since the attacks, with some already drawing years-long prison terms in special expedited court proceedings. But the child from the southern city of Nice appears to be the youngest by far.

The boy declared "The French must be killed. I am with the terrorists. The Muslims did well, and the journalists got what they deserved," Fabienne Lewandowski, deputy director for public security in the Alpes-Maritimes region, told BFM television. She said the child also refused to take part in the national minute of silence for the victims on Jan. 9.

The storming of the newspaper offices left 12 people dead and launched three days of terror in the Paris region that killed a total of 20 people, including the gunmen. The school director brought a complaint against the child on Jan. 21 and he was questioned that day with his father and a lawyer present.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brandon Fleisher has got a solid start in stock-market investing at the ripe young age of 17. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

T.O. teenager doubles $50K investment

Stock market.
Brandon Fleisher, 17, is a student of the investing game

GILBERT NGABO
Metro in Toronto

Call him the pup of Bay Street. At 17, Brandon Fleisher understands the ins and outs of stock markets like, well, a wolf.

The Grade 12 student at Toronto's Upper Canada College has, within a year, doubled his initial investment of $50,000. He also started a company through which he offers free analysis of different stocks and markets.

Fleisher picked up an interest in the world of stock exchanges when he was in Grade 8.

"In a math class, we all had to pick a stock and grow the most out of it by the end of the year," he said. "I did very well, then started playing virtual stock-exchange games with fake money, and it really gave me the thrill."

Not too long after, Fleisher started spending entire days combing through companies' financial reports and studying balance sheets.

It took about two years of balancing school workload and his passion for running a virtual portfolio before he got the chance to invest real money.

"I worked really hard to gain the trust from my parents to invest the real money in my portfolio," he said, explaining that he was making big profits in the fake money trade, where he invested in Netflix and Tesla.

He has since broadened his network of investors, and his company, The Financial Bulls, operates with him as CEO and other people his age offering financial advice.

So what's the secret to his success? Fleisher said it's simple: find companies that are growing and profitable and have the patience to stay invested for a good while.

It also helps if you're a bit of a whiz kid, too.

Market Minute

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Dow Jones: 17,416.85 (+225.48)

Keystone XL

U.S. Senate passes bill approving Canadian pipeline

Long-suffering supporters of the Keystone XL pipeline won a moral victory in the U.S. Congress on Thursday — but that's about all they won.

A bill to build the oil pipeline from Canada was approved by the Senate for the first time in the almost seven-year struggle over one of the best-known, most-debated pieces of oil infrastructure in memory.

Thanks to a newly empowered Republican majority, the legislation finally cleared that three-fifths requirement Thursday in a vote of 62-36 but did not get the 67 votes needed to overcome a presidential veto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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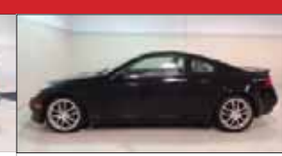
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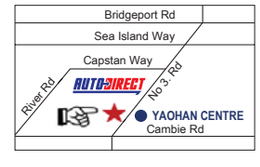

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THE KOHLER REPORT
By Rebecca Kohler

How young is too young to learn about sexual consent in Canadian schools?

That's the big debate in Ontario this week, after Premier Kathleen Wynne announced kids as young as six will soon be learning about how body language and facial expressions relate to consent as part of an overhaul to the province's decades-old sex-ed curriculum.

It's unclear if the lessons will be taught verbally or through finger painting, but what's for sure is that it will be taught — and hurray for that. I consent to consent ed!

Unlike some more progressive provinces whose sex-ed programs have been updated in the past decade, Ontario's was developed in 1998 when cellphones were just shoebox-sized devices used by rich people on TV. The last time the province tried to update the program, it got shelved because of objections from religious groups. The debate was recently reignited when two eighth-graders, Lia Valente and Tessa Hill, started a Change.org petition to get the notion of consent discussed in health class.

That's not to say that hot topics of late like Jian Ghomeshi, Bill Cosby and Rehtaeh Parsons haven't played a part in creating an environment that made this kind of thing seem necessary. If Ghomeshi had been taught about consent from the age of six, maybe he wouldn't currently be awaiting trial; or maybe he's just a sociopath, but it would have been worth a try, wouldn't it?

Not everyone thinks so. Every time the topic of sex education in Ontario schools comes up, there's a backlash featuring a lot of tired, outdated, head-in-the-sand objections from conservatives.

In fact, in 2010, then-Premier Dalton McGuinty tried to push a similar program forward but kowtowed to pressure from people such as Charles McVety, head of Canada Christian College, who started a petition against the proposed curriculum and got over 100,000 signatures — McGuinty withdrew the lesson plans. I'm hoping Wynne has bigger ovaries than McGuinty. McVety is all hot and bothered (angry, not aroused) this time around, too.

"We abhor the premier announcing that Ontario's teachers will be forced to teach little children how to give permission ... to engage in sex." I'm abhorred by the fact that a "good" Christian actually thinks teachers will be telling six-year-olds to engage in sex. That is *not* the plan. As Wynne put it, "Starting right in the ... junior grades, kids will be learning listening skills and helping each other to pay attention to facial expressions and ... whether somebody is positive or negative or happy or sad."

These are skills one could teach in a number of ways; I don't think any Grade 1 teachers will be digging out the dildos or inflating any sexy blow-up dolls. Consent is applicable in many life situations. I once had a co-worker who enjoyed foisting her "famous rice pilaf" on me — wow, do I ever wish she'd had a lesson in reading facial expressions and for that matter, gag reflexes.

Parents who don't want their kids exposed to the idea of sex at school forget that their kids have another teacher today: The Internet.

Valente and Hill are living in the present, among all the other students from coast-to-coast who can turn on their laptop to watch a gang-bang, under the veil of porn, for sexual entertainment purposes. This stuff makes Penthouse Magazine look like it should be included on the same bookshelf as Goodnight Moon.

Joe Warmington at the Toronto Sun wasn't keen on the fact that Premier Wynne had taken advice from middle-school students.

"A lecture about sex ed from 13-year-olds in a country where legal consent is 16?"

Yes, Joe! That's the point. The fact that 13-year-olds who are not even legally able to consent already know that consent, or lack of it, is an issue today is indicative of the fact that there's a really big problem. Like, come on.

McVety and Warmington aren't alone in their disdain for this development.

Reading blogs and comments on news articles and social media, one will see a lot of sentiments like, "That's too young to start broaching the topic of sex," "Schools should only teach abstinence," "Leave it to the parents to teach kids about sex."

Well, those ideas are all fine and dandy if you live where the Care Bears live, but we live on Earth among humans who can at times be ignorant and dangerous.

And can we take it, from recent events, that parents are teaching their kids about consent? To a parent who wants to do it themselves, I ask this: While you might be teaching your daughter about consent, what if your neighbour is not teaching his son the same principles?

Correction

In a Voices column published on Jan. 29, Metro mis-identified the authors of a study on terrorism. The authors were from the universities of Ottawa and Toronto, and the co-authors were from the universities of B.C. and Waterloo. Metro regrets the error.

Happy face/Sad face

From endangered delicacies to adopt-a-cockroach programs, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:

SALAMANDER SAGA

Police in Shenzhen, China, are in the hot seat for allegedly chowing down on — of all things — endangered salamander at a lavish banquet. Journalists who claim to have caught the feast on camera say they were subsequently beaten up. Fourteen officers have been suspended pending an investigation.

HE LOVES YOU NOT

The San Francisco Zoo is promoting two unique critters as part of its adopt-an-animal program ahead of Valentine's Day. For $25 or $50, people can adopt a hissing cockroach or scorpion, respectively, and have the certificate sent to the person who inspired the adoption ... we're guessing an ex.

DOUBLE DOWN DOG

KFC continues to out-gross itself with the creation of the Double Down Dog: A hot dog wrapped in a fried chicken "bun" and drizzled with, dunno, mustard? Cheese sauce? The "delicacy" was made available only in the Philippines, but if it's popular, who knows — it may show up on menus in Canada. Are you brave enough to try it?

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Kathy Beitz, a Guelph, Ont. woman who is legally blind, was able to see her newborn son minutes after his birth, thanks to an amazing eyewear device produced by Canadian company eSight. Watch the heartwarming video on YouTube.

PHOTOSHOP FAIL

We're assuming someone at Australian magazine Woman's Day is not a Kate Middleton fan. How else do you explain this horribly photoshopped picture of the inarguably beautiful Duchess of Cambridge? Check out the original photo in the smaller circle.

metro

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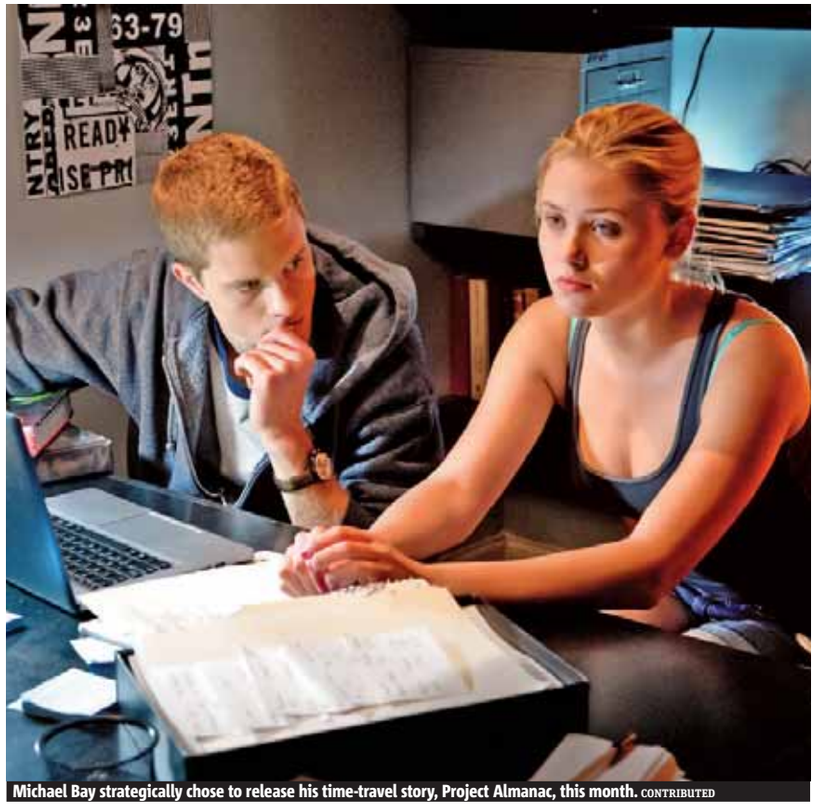
January is shaking its bad rap

Analysis. The month formerly known as the place bad movies go to die has offered some surprisingly good fare in recent memory


Michael Bay strategically chose to release his time-travel story, Project Almanac, this month. CONTRIBUTED

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE

Traditional wisdom has it that January is a dumping ground for bad movies.

"Everyone is broke after shelling out for Christmas presents," the studios say. "The weather is crappy and anyone leaving the house is going to the gym instead of the movies," complain the suits.

That's why clunkers like One for the Money, a Katherine Heigl crime drama with a two per cent Rotten Tomatoes rating and Season of the Witch — which saw Nicolas Cage go all medieval on the forces of evil and strain his credibility as an actor — made the lives of critics and audiences miserable on long, cold winter nights in bygone Januarys.

Why waste good movies when no one was likely to go?

Years ago studios threw the odd quality film into the January mix — Traffic, Good Will Hunting, Before Sunrise, Dr. Strangelove and Silence of the Lambs— but every good movie like Matinee (92 per cent on RT) was balanced out with a stinker like Body of Evidence and its paltry six per cent rating.

There is still that yin and yang as last week's releases of The Boy Next Door and Mortdecai (two movies that will decorate Worst Of the Year lists) proves, but the tide seems to be changing.

Perhaps that's why Project Almanac, a time-travel drama from producer Michael Bay, moved from a prime July release date to the barren January slate.

Surely Bay, as savvy a player as Hollywood has, wouldn't allow his movie to be tossed out with the trash.

The reason given for the schedule move was that Bay himself wanted to sprinkle some of his Transformers' fairy dust to pump up the film's appeal to young audiences.

But it's also apparent that a micro-budget movie like Project Almanac, even with Bay's name attached, could get lost in a summer filled with large-scale offerings like Dawn of the Planet of the Apes, so why not release in a less crowded, but increasingly profitable field?

What used to be a time to fill screens with borderline cheesefests has become a viable month to release a movie.

Last year big crowds braved the polar vortex to help the Kevin Hart comedy Ride Along set a January opening record.

This year the Oscar-nominated Selma and Still Alice have opened wide in a month usually reserved for Golden Raspberry winners.

Perhaps the biggest story of 2015 so far is the success of Clint Eastwood's Chris Kyle biopic, American Sniper, which has raked in upwards of $170 million in just two weeks.

The success of that film is as strong an indicator as Hollywood needs that January is no longer a no-go zone.

Richard's ratings

Black or White

Project Almanac

Wild Card

A Most Violent Year

SCENE

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Now in theatres

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:* +

Drama

Black or White

Director. Mike Binder

Stars. Kevin Costner, Octavia Spencer

Black or White is the story of a grandfather (Kevin Costner) who is suddenly left to care for his beloved granddaughter. When her paternal grandmother (Octavia Spencer) seeks custody with the help of her brother (Anthony Mackie), the girl is torn between two families who love her deeply. With the best intentions at heart, both families fight for what they feel is right and are forced to confront their true feelings about race, forgiveness, and understanding.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 44% **Audience:** + 89%

Drama/Action

A Most Violent Year

Director. J.C. Chandor

Stars. Oscar Isaac, Jessica Chastain

Set during the winter of 1981 — statistically one of the most crime-ridden of New York City's history — A Most Violent Year is a drama following the lives of an immigrant and his family as they attempt to capitalize on the American Dream, while the rampant violence, decay, and corruption of the day drag them in and threaten to destroy all they have built.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 90% **Audience:** 76%

Mystery/Sci-Fi

Project Almanac

Director. Dean Israelite

Stars. Sophia Black-D'Elia, Jonny Weston

A brilliant high school student and his friends uncover blueprints for a mysterious device with limitless potential, inadvertently putting lives in danger.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** 78%

Documentary

Keep On Keepin' On

Director. Alan Hicks

Stars. Clark Terry, Herbie Hancock

Shot over the course of five years by first time filmmaker Al Hicks, Keep On Keepin' On depicts the remarkable story of 93-year-old jazz legend Clark Terry. A living monument to the Golden Era of Jazz, Terry — a mentor to Miles Davis — is among the few performers ever to have played in both Count Basie's and Duke Ellington's bands.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 97% **Audience:** 87%

Documentary

Red Army

Director. Gabe Polsky

Stars. Scotty Bowman, Mark Deakins

Red Army is a documentary about the Soviet Union and the most successful dynasty in sports history: the Red Army hockey team. Told from the perspective of its captain Slava Fetisov, the story portrays his transformation from national hero to political enemy. From the USSR to Russia, the film examines how sport mirrors social and cultural movements.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 97% **Audience:** + 82%

Drama

Leviathan

Director. Andrey Zvyagintsev

Stars. Elena Liadova, Alexei Serebriakov

The latest drama from Andrey Zvyagintsev, the acclaimed director of The Return. Kolya (Alexeï Serebriakov) lives in a small fishing town near the stunning Barents Sea in Northern Russia. He owns an auto-repair shop that stands right next to the house where he lives with his family.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 99% **Audience:** 83%

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Kinky sex can be funny, disturbing or loving

Sinful sizzle. Movies that explore the world of alternative sexuality often tell deeper tales of human connection

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

While negatively reviewing Ken Russell's wildly kinky 1984 thriller Crimes of Passion, the late, great Roger Ebert said, "sex is an activity of great and serious importance to its participants but, as a spectator sport, it has a strange way of turning into comedy."

Certainly, Russell, enfant terrible that he was, took great delight in orchestrating scenes of graphic, unnatural S&M sexuality in that bizarre film. But Crimes of Passion was not camp.

It was really just one of many controversial motion pictures that use extreme kink as a tool to tell deeper tales of extreme human connection.

With the release of Peter Strickland's deeply kinky romance The Duke of Burgundy, opening soon across Canada, and the filmed adaptation of E.L James' Fifty Shades of Grey opening on Valentine's Day weekend, we take a look at some of the big screen's most excessive forays into alternative carnal knowledge.

The Night Porter (1974)
Liliana Cavani's dark, controversial sado-masochistic drama is as demented as they come, detailing an ongoing relationship between a concentration camp survivor played by Charlotte Rampling and her former Nazi captor. Love stories don't get stranger than this. And yes, Ebert hated it.

Blue Velvet (1986)
David Lynch's masterpiece of small-town mystery and murder is, at its core, an S&M love triangle. But while Dennis Hopper's wheezing villain Frank Booth treats Isabella Rossellini as an outlet for his violent insanity, her masochistic lovemaking with Kyle McLachlan is tender and affectionate. A work of great beauty — and perversity.

The Duke of Burgundy is a master-slave lesbian romance, and a must-see film, says critic Chris Alexander. CONTRIBUTED

Exit to Eden (1994)
Sitcom king Gary Marshall takes Anne Rice's moving and hyper-erotic sado-masochistic romance novel and, seemingly agreeing with Ebert's sentiments, flips it into a sex-soaked slapstick comedy, inventing goofball roles for Rosie O'Donnell and Dan Akroyd as leather-clad cops snooping around an S&M resort, and decimating the dirty dignity of the book. Rice was none too pleased.

Nymphomaniac (2014)
Lars von Trier's magnum pornographic opus is in essence an inspiring study in female empowerment, although one exploding with jaw-dropping sequences of mind-bending kinky sex and violence. Charlotte Gainsbourg delivers the performance of a lifetime, even when using her body as a receptacle for some of the most extreme debauchery ever seen on screen.

The Duke of Burgundy

Peter Strickland's gorgeously designed and directed master-slave lesbian romance is a delicate, surreal examination of an older intellectual and her youthful protégée, with the older woman trying to hold on to her lover by indulging in her basest perverted fantasies. Although decidedly adult, there is refreshingly no nudity or explicit sex in the film. Never has the idea of a human toilet seemed so innocent. A must-see.

Johnny Depp is in Tokyo, Japan to promote his latest film, Mortdecai. EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Depp battled a nasty cold, but survived to tell the tale

Premiere. After missing Japanese press event, Mortdecai star blames an attack from a legendary creature

Johnny Depp has recovered from a cold. And a chupacabra attack.

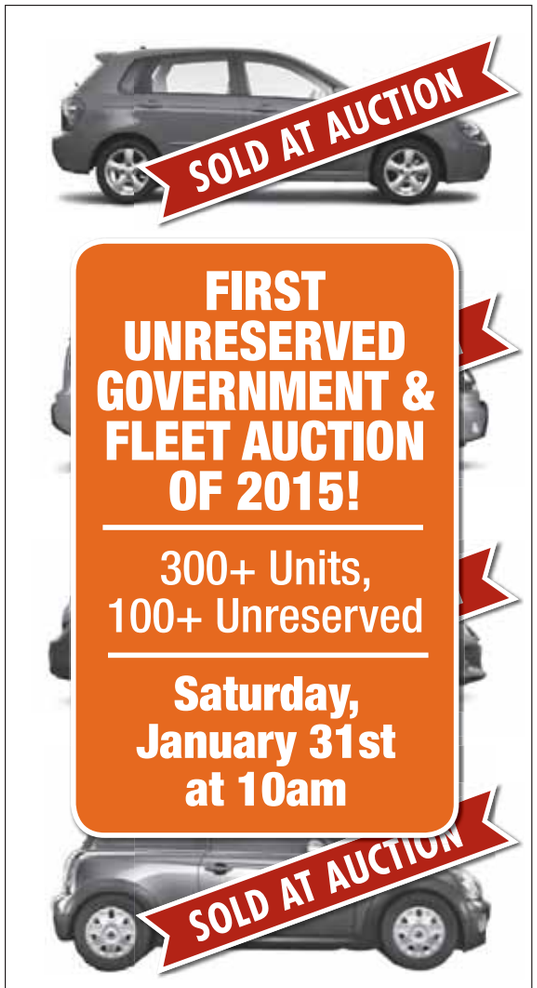
The actor was all smiles while joking Wednesday with journalists in Tokyo about why he was a no-show at a news conference a day earlier. Depp had been ill but said that wasn't the reason.

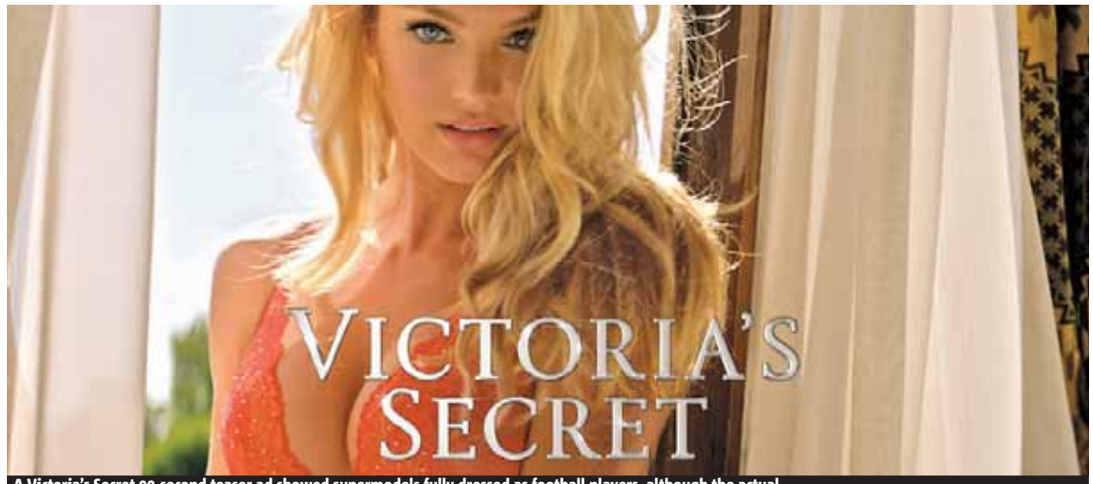
"I was attacked yesterday morning by a very rarely seen or experienced animal called chupacabra. I fought with it for hours. They're very persistent, very mean. And I'm pretty sure it came in my suitcase. I threw him off the 23rd floor. So we'll never see him again. Thank you for understanding," he said.

The chupacabra is a legendary creature rumoured to inhabit parts of the Americas. Depp's tale drew laughs from the crowd of reporters.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mortdecai

Mortdecai tanked at the box office in North America, but Depp has a huge fan base in Japan and hopes the film will be received well there. It will be released in Japan on Feb. 6.





A Victoria's Secret 90-second teaser ad showed supermodels fully dressed as football players, although the actual Super Bowl ad shows the models dressed in Victoria's Secret lingerie. VICTORIA'S SECRET/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Splashy ads grab major YouTube views

Super Bowl ads. Canadians go online to watch the commercials they can't see on TV

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
Metro in Toronto

Carnival Cruise Lines is trying to boost its image with its first-ever Super Bowl ad after several years of bad publicity from illnesses on cruise ships and the sinking of the Costa Concordia wreck in 2012. CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Searching the Internet for the American Super Bowl commercials Canadians don't get on TV on has become a national pastime, but that's about to change.

Five years of Google search data shows that every year, more Canadians search Google for Super Bowl commercials than Americans and our searches outnumber our giant neighbour to the south the most around game day, when Canadian broadcasters have been subbing out splashy American ads for Canadian ones.

That hunger for American ads is why the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission announced Thursday it will stop Canadian broadcasters from subbing in Canadian ads for American ones during the Super Bowl as of 2017.

"The best commercials are coming from the U.S. where they have more skin in the game, given what they're paying for advertising," said Kenneth Wong, Professor of Marketing at Queen's School of Business.

"In fact, many of the Canadian ads shown at the Super Bowl are just regular ads, nothing special done for the Super Bowl."

In the meantime, it's become more important for Super Bowl ads to make the most of the buzz online, he said. More companies are making "teasers," which are essentially online ads for their Super Bowl ads.

For example, Victoria's Secret filmed an online spot of its models playing football that is just as a teaser for its main ad during the game.

"When you're spending $4.5 million on a single exposure of a national ad, you want to do everything possible to make sure that ad is seen by people," Wong said. "So, you make an ad for an ad."

More than 70-million total minutes of Super Bowl ads — and teasers for ads — have been watched on YouTube so far, which is nearly triple the amount watched by this time last year, Google reports.

According to Cheri Bradish, research chair in sport marketing, Ted Rogers School of Management, the immense popularity of online Super Bowl ads goes hand-in-hand with a shift away from watching sports on TV to watching sports on other platforms.

"The paradigm is clearly shifted in how consumers, particularly young consumers, are consuming sports," she said.

5 ads worth talking about

In general, ads released online so far are on par in terms of quality, but with less emphasis on high production value than in recent years, said Wong. He believes companies find using celebrities in their ads — such as Kim Kardashian and Pierce Brosnan — a more effective way to create an impact.

- **Kia Sorento.** Pierce Brosnan stars as himself and gets lampooned when offered an acting part: Where he's expecting action, it's a more mundane car ad. "It's a perfect counterpoint to his James Bond image," said Wong.
- **T-Mobile.** Kim Kardashian, satirizes herself advertising a feature that allows T-Mobile users to save the data allowance they didn't use in a month by talking, deadpan, about all of the pictures of her they could be using it on.
- **Wix.com.** Wong's pick for best ad so far. Retired football players use Wix.com to easily build websites to jumpstart their wacky choices of second careers. For example, Brett Farve gets into charcuterie, and builds favreandcarve.com, which exists in real life.
- **Carl's Jr.** This ad showing model Charlotte McKinney walking apparently naked through a farmers market has faced criticism for using sex to sell burgers.
- **GoDaddy.** GoDaddy pulled its ad featuring a puppy mill using GoDaddy to host its website after it caused an outrage among tweeting animal rights activists.

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Bieber opens up, says he was just pretending to be a doofus

A recent visit to Ellen apparently prompted Justin Bieber to take to Facebook to record a dimly lit confessional video detailing his personal insecurities about how he's come off over the past year.

And he's just trying to be Justin, guys.

"It's been a minute since I've been in a public appearance, and I didn't want to come off arrogant or conceited — basically how I've been acting the past year, year and a half," he says of his interview with Ellen DeGeneres.

"I'm not what I was pretending to be. Why I say I was pretending is, often we pretend to be something we're not, as a cover-up of what we're truly feeling inside. And there was a lot of feelings going on in there. … Just being young and growing up in this business is hard. Just growing up in general is hard."

If this is how he reacts to a sit-down with DeGeneres, maybe this whole Comedy Central roast thing isn't such a great idea.

Third Middleton tries to prove his life isn't soft as a marshmallow

When you think of the name Middleton, you think Kate, right? Beyond that, probably Pippa. But don't forget about James. Can being the younger brother to the Duchess of Cambridge — one of the most famous women in the world — be a bit frustrating?

"Yes, it does get frustrating," James Middleton tells iPad magazine The Young Director. "I work incredibly hard — just like every other person in business and work. And aside from the fact of — yes, I am the brother of someone very important — I am, at the end of the day, just James."

So have some sympathy, you guys.

And speaking of business and work, what is it James is up to these days?

Running his startup, Boomf, which allows Instagram users to get their photos printed on marshmallows. Yes, you read that correctly.

"I have only ever employed myself," James says proudly and without a hint of irony.

James Middleton

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AUTO PREVIEW

Hauling & towing

Chevy Silverado

With the year-old Silverado 1500 series, Chevrolet did its homework and paid close attention to what buyers were looking for to haul and tow their stuff.

It looks familiar, but there are more powerful/efficient engines, as well as improvements in nearly every other area.

In front, the twin stacked headlights remain, but the grille is now much more prominent and tougher looking.

Behind the tailgate, the handy corner step bumper has recessed footholds that, combined with built-in handholds inside the box, make accessing the bed much easier.

All body styles — regular, extended Double Cab (featuring front-hinged rear doors with outside handles) and four-door Crew Cab — are attached to reworked frames with more high-strength steel, extra bracing for stiffness and improved body mounts that help isolate road nose and vibration.

You can order the Crew Cab with a longer 80-inch (203-centimetre) bed (the standard bed is 68 inches/172 centimetres) version and you will get a choice of three new all-aluminum engines.

Chevrolet Silverado. CONTRIBUTED

The entry point is a 4.3-litre V6 that has the same displacement as the previous V6, but output has significantly increased to 285 horsepower and 305 pound-feet of torque from 195/260.

Optional is a 5.3-litre V8 with 355 horses and 383 pound-feet. An available 6.2-litre V8 is rated at 420 horsepower and 440 pound-feet of torque. It shares much of its guts with the Corvette engine and for 2015 also gets the Corvette's eight-speed automatic transmission. The other two engines carry over with six-speed automatics.

The model range also extends to include a premium High Country model to appeal to wealthy ranchers and city slickers. The best part about this truck is its highly optioned leather interior that places it above the previous top-of-the-line LTZ.

Also available for Silverado's sophomore year is a built-in Wi-Fi hot spot to allow all aboard access to the Internet. There is also Siri Eyes Free, which is Apple's voice-control software that can run many of the vehicle's functions without the driver taking their hands off the steering wheel. – *Wheelbase Media*

A MAKEOVER FOR THE CRUZE

While Chevrolet has been winning hearts with the incredibly stylish Impala, its older products have been in need of a little more pizzazz.

So the Cruze gets a small facelift for 2015 with a more prominent set of intakes and a slightly revised grille. And like virtually every other vehicle on the market, LED running lights are standard on the higher trim levels.

Mechanically, things remain unchanged. The 2.0-litre turbo-diesel engine offers more horsepower and torque — 151 and 264, respectively — than either of the gasoline engines, and torque can reach 280 pound-feet for brief bursts of flat-out acceleration. While its zero-to-60 mph time in the mid-eight-second range will be enjoyed by some, everyone will appreciate the 700-plus-mile cruising range, thanks to a headline-grabbing 5.1 l/100 km highway fuel-economy figure.

Chevrolet Cruze. CONTRIBUTED

Most Cruze trims include the MyLink radio (which streams music via Bluetooth), voice recognition and compatibility with Pandora Internet radio. A seven-inch colour touch screen stereo with navigation and USB port can be had in virtually every model, while driver convenience packages on most trims include a number of useful options such as power seats, auto-dimming rear view mirrors, rear-vision camera and more.

The Cruze's standard and optional power plants are diminutive, but more than adequate. The base car is equipped with a 1.8-litre, four-cylinder that produces 138 horsepower and 123 pound-feet of torque.

Move up to the LT and LTZ and you will get a smaller 1.4-litre turbocharged four-cylinder that's also rated at 138 horsepower but with 25 pound-feet more torque. – *Wheelbase Media*

Chevrolet Trax. CONTRIBUTED

CHEVY TRAX DELIVERS ON STYLE

The Trax is an affordable solution for those desiring a small wagon with space for five, available all-wheel-drive and with a strong aversion to the fuel pumps.

Front seating is on the cosy side, but there is more shoulder room in back if you limit the rider count to two (there are seatbelts for three). With the rear 60:40 bench and front passenger seat folded flat there is stowage space for plenty of bulky stuff — up to nearly 250 centimetres in length, in fact.

The only engine is a 1.4-litre turbocharged four-cylinder borrowed from Chevy's Cruze and Sonic models (and also used on the similarly sized Buick Encore), producing 138 horsepower and 148-pound-feet of torque. It's backed by a six-speed manual transmission in base models, but the rest get a six-speed automatic transmission.

The starting-point LS model comes with 10 airbags, including rear side-impact and front-knee inflatables plus an introductory subscription to GM's OnStar emergency/concierge and direction assist service. Air conditioning, a rear view camera, roof rack, deluxe seat covers and 16-inch aluminum wheels are also included.

Stepping up to the LT gets you a back-up warning system, six-way power driver's seat, remote starter and Chevrolet's MyLink seven-inch touch screen communications and infotainment system with a Bose premium audio package.

The premium LTZ arrives dressed up with 18-inch wheels, leather-like seat coverings (heated in front), auto-dimming rear view mirror and fog lights. The available all-wheel-drive system automatically engages when the vehicle accelerates from a stop (to counteract torque steer, which is the tendency for the vehicle to pull to left or right when accelerating), but reverts to front-wheel-drive once the car gets rolling. It also redistributes power to the rear tires as needed when the fronts begin to lose traction. – *Wheelbase Media*

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KIA SOUL IS A WINNER

Kia Soul. CONTRIBUTED

Few cars are ever considered groundbreaking, but that pretty much sums up the Soul. It's the kind of vehicle that other automakers would give anything to have in their stable.

Funky styling, a frugal price tag and fuel-saving ways have made it a winner.

For 2015, Kia upgraded and slightly enlarged the cabin for more front head and shoulder room and added a bit more rear legroom. In addition, the dashboard was revised to accommodate an available 20-centimetre touch screen. The platform was made 29 per cent stiffer and accommodates a suspension that was re-engineered for improved ride and handling.

Outside, design details inspired by the Soul-based Trax'ster concept provided the basis for a front and rear facelift that makes the Soul much more appealing. The rear liftgate was made six centimetres wider and is now flanked by one of the coolest set of tail lights installed on any vehicle.

The entry-level LX Soul is equipped with a 1.6-litre, four-cylinder that produces 130 horsepower and 118 pound-feet of torque, while the optional 2.0-litre, four-cylinder in the EX and SX models delivers the same 164 horses and 151 pound-feet of torque.

Base Souls feature air conditioning, but not when the manual transmission is ordered, plus all the usual power amenities. Optional is a panorama-style sunroof and leather seats (heated and ventilated in front), along with a navigation system and premium Infinity-brand sound package.

Load up a Soul and you are looking at close to $30,000 — count an extra $200 for any colour other than black or white.

Under the heading of "big news," the Soul EV arrives for 2015 with an electric motor rated at 109 horsepower and 210 pound-feet of torque and an EPA-rated range of about 150 kilometres before its lithium-ion-polymer batteries need recharging. – *Wheelbase Media*

Care, attention are Rio highlights

Kia Rio. CONTRIBUTED

Some automakers spit out sub-compact models as if being shot from a Pez dispenser. Kia takes a different approach in producing its well-appointed Rio sedan and Rio five-door hatchback editions with lots of care and attention — and it shows.

Hyundai and Kia, both part of a Korea-based conglomerate, are tasked with providing well turned-out entry-level cars that are fun to drive. A big part of that fun comes from their non-claustrophobic interiors that are enclosed in sheet metal that's stylish without being overly trendy.

For the Rio sedan and five-door models, that attention to detail extends to the dashboard layout that's clearly presented and, due to the absence of hard plastic surfaces, is far richer looking than you would expect. The air conditioning, rear-window heat and ventilation toggle switches are a particularly nice touch.

The standard 1.6-litre, four-cylinder engine produces 138 horsepower and 123 pound-feet of torque, which works out just fine in a light 1,130-kilogram vehicle. All Rios come with six-speed manual transmissions or optional six-speed automatics.

The base Rio LX sedan with the manual gearbox is somewhat light in the content department, while the mid-range LX+ includes air conditioning, plus a few more goodies.

The EX adds cruise control, six-speaker audio system, soft-touch dash and a smattering of leather trim, while the top-end (and sportier) SX adds "Steptronic" paddle shifters for the automatic transmission, 17-inch wheels (15-inchers are standard), leather interior, rain-sensing wipers and more. To add navigation, you need the SX. The five-door's trim levels match the sedan's, except there is no LX+.

To help save fuel dollars, the LX+ automatic-equipped car can be ordered with what Kia calls Idle Stop and Go (ISG). This feature shuts off the engine after the Rio comes to a complete stop, then instantly fires it up once the brake pedal is released.

– *Wheelbase Media*

Kia Sorento. CONTRIBUTED

SORENTO HAS SWAGGER

Following a design freshening, platform stiffing and power upgrading for 2014, the Sorento swaggers forth into 2015 as cool and competent as ever. And why not, since most competing three-row wagons require a lot more coin to seal the deal.

The Sorento's stout sub-frame supports a 191-horsepower, 2.4-litre four-cylinder power plant and an optional 3.3-litre V6 producing 290-horsepower and 252 pound-feet of torque.

The all-wheel-drive system (available with either engine) is a full-time unit that constantly varies the torque to all four wheels and can direct power to the outer wheels in high-speed turning situations for added control (known as torque vectoring).

The third-row seating is optional on the LX V6 and the SX (but not the EX), which also has a V6.

– *Wheelbase Media*

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Rio4 SX with Navigation shown‡
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Forte SX AT shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/8.0L

2015 FORTE LX MT

CASH PURCHASE $12,995

* + applicable taxes. Model may not be exactly as shown. Plus $450 doc. Fee.

Sorento SX AT AWD 7-Seat shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 9.0L/12.7L

2015 SORENTO LX AT

CASH PURCHASE $24,460

* + applicable taxes. Model may not be exactly as shown. Plus $450 doc. Fee.

SX Model shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.7L/8.9L

SPORTAGE FWD 6 SPEED MANUAL

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Mercedes-Benz C-Class. CONTRIBUTED

RE-ENERGIZED C-CLASS

With the arrival of the CLA-Class for 2014, the new C-Class moves up to a more elevated perch on the Mercedes-Benz family tree.

Along with a promotion, the sedan (new coupe, wagon, plug-in hybrid and performance AMG versions will follow later in calendar year 2015) has been resized and re-energized.

C-Class passengers and their gear are enclosed in a completely new skin that Mercedes says is 70 kilograms lighter than before, thanks to more aluminum body panels. Total weight has been reduced by about 100 kilograms.

An interior makeover includes well bolstered seats and a wood-trimmed control panel. The toggle-style gear-shift lever is located on the steering column and in its former location on the console is a controller with a unique touch pad. It allows your fingers to zoom or reduce (pinch) and select the various menu items, including infotainment, communications and climate systems that are shown on a dash-mounted tablet-style screen that juts out from the dashboard.

The C300 has a turbocharged 241-horsepower, 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine while the C400 gets a 329-horsepower twin-turbo 3.0-litre V6. Both engines are matched to seven-speed automatic transmissions.

All models come with "Agility Select" that includes Comfort, Eco, Sport and Sport+ settings for the engine, transmission and suspension. And then there's an "individual" setting to fine-tune those preferences.

Mercedes-Benz's 4MATIC permanent all-wheel-drive system is standard on C300 and C400 models. The C300 arrives with climate control, leather-covered seats (16-way power-adjustable in front and split-folding in back), electric parking brake and keyless push-button start.

The C400 carries about the same basic content but adds sportier AMG exterior trim and 18-inch AMG wheels (17-inch alloys for the C300). From there, leading-edge luxury options include a sport suspension, panoramic sunroof and 590-watt, 13-speaker Burmester-brand audio system. You can also add the latest high-tech safety gear designed for maximum collision and injury avoidance with other vehicles and pedestrians.

– Wheelbase Media

GLA gives you a choice

Mercedes-Benz GLA-Class. CONTRIBUTED

The GLA gives entry-level Mercedes-Benz shoppers a clear choice. Those preferring the slinkiness of the CLA sedan can take that route, while the more practically minded can opt for the GLA's added carrying capacity. Both vehicles appear similar from the windshield forward, but otherwise go their separate ways.

The GLA is taller and more squared off, but minus a trunk it is a significant 20 centimetres shorter. The base GLA250 runs with a turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder that generates 208 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. Step up to the GLA45 AMG and those values increase to 355 horsepower and 332 pound-feet.

The AMG's engine block has been strengthened and its turbocharger produces nearly twice the boost of the GLA250. That results in a zero-to-100-km/h time of five seconds, versus a more leisurely 7.3 for the GLA250 (as measured by Mercedes-Benz).

Each power plant uses a seven-speed automated manual transmission with paddle shifters that produces quicker upshifts and downshifts than a traditional automatic that comes with a torque converter.

The GLA250 comes with M-B's 4MATIC all-wheel-drive that directs up to 50 per cent of the torque to the rear wheels, as needed. The GLA45 AMG also comes standard with AWD.

Base GLAs include a power liftgate, power driver's seat with memory and an autonomous braking system that slows down or even stops the vehicle if you neglect to react to slower or stopped traffic in front.

– Wheelbase Media

Mercedes-Benz CLA-Class. CONTRIBUTED

ENTRY-LEVEL SEDAN OPENS THE DOOR

Who says an entry-level car has to look or feel entry level?

The Mercedes-Benz CLA's sporty body cladding and other trim makes it appear far from a stripped-down basic-transportation module, despite being Mercedes-Benz's starter sedan.

Other than being pulled by the front wheels (with all-wheel-drive being optional), what's most unusual about the CLA is that it doesn't offer the kind of roomy practicality that's a given when it comes to nearly every mid-size sedan. That's because Mercedes stylists drew their inspiration from the larger CLS-class faux coupe that remains one of the most imitated models on the planet (see Aston Martin Rapide, Volkswagen CC, Audi A7 and Ford Fusion).

The base CLA250 comes with a turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder that produces 208 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque at an engine speed that's just above idle. This helps propel the car to 100 km/h from rest in a quick 6.7 seconds, as recorded by Mercedes-Benz.

For fuel thriftiness, the CLA250 uses technology that shuts off the engine when the car comes to a stop. Once the brake pedal is released, the car starts up again.

The CLA45 AMG also features a turbocharged 2.0, except that the block has been strengthened and a higher-output turbocharger produces nearly twice the boost of the CLA250. The result is a stout 355 horsepower and 322 pound-feet of torque. That's an astounding 177 horsepower per litre of displacement, while a Corvette is less than half of that at 73.

The AMG shaves the CLA's zero-to-100-km/h times by 2.1 seconds. Both models use a seven-speed automated manual transmission with paddle shifters, but the AMG adds standard 4MATIC all-wheel-drive that sends up to 50 per cent of the torque to the rear wheels, as needed. 4MATIC is available as an option on the regular-strength CLA250.

For 2015, all CLAs come with Collision Prevention Assist that signals if the car is approaching a vehicle ahead too rapidly and will independently apply braking force should the driver fail to do so.

– Wheelbase Media

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An order from the fun department

WRX power plant produces 268 horsepower

All-wheel-drive and plucky turbocharged engines give these hot Subaru sedans a big boost in the fun department.

Compact sedans appeal to a buyer's practical nature. However, with the Subaru WRX and the more potent WRX STI, the appeal includes lively power plants, four-season driving competency plus sporty suspension and steering components that manage the snakiest of paved and unpaved roadways.

Both 2015 WRX models shed their optional hatchback body styles. That's surprising since hot hatches are currently all the rage. A new 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder in the WRX produces 268 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque, while the STI continues with a 2.5-litre, four-cylinder with 305 horsepower and 290 pound-feet of torque.

The engines are "flat" with two banks of two pistons firing at 180 degrees to each other. Durable and with a low centre of gravity, each horizontally opposed four-cylinder (H4) engine is connected to a six-speed manual transmission, while a continuously variable unit (CVT) with paddle shifters is newly optional for the WRX. This fact will no doubt surprise loyal fans, but the real surprise is how closely it mimics a traditional multi-speed automatic. The CVT has six built-in steps when the driver switches to either Intelligent or Sport mode by the steering-wheel-mounted switch, or eight ratios when the Sport Sharp mode is selected.

Larger-diameter front disc brakes also provide greater stopping power. The standard all-wheel-drive system has a 50:50 torque split in the manual transmission cars and a 45:55 front-rear split with the CVT. But when the going gets tough, up to 100 per cent of the power can be directed to either axle.

For hardcore types, the STI remains a serious near-race machine that's ideally suited for drivers with sporting intentions. For non-racing types, the tamer, but still potent WRX would likely make a better choice. Either way, your drive route will have you travelling on Subaru's wilder side.

– Wheelbase Media

Subaru WRX. CONTRIBUTED

Subaru Outback. CONTRIBUTED

UPDATING THE OUTBACK

During its 20-year history, Subaru's plucky wagon has remained true to its roots, while undergoing continuous improvement.

For the 2015 model year, the Legacy-sedan-based Outback receives a number of critical updates.

Visually, the car appears similar to the outgoing version, although a revised grille, lightweight aluminum hood, reshaped headlights and door-mounted mirrors are evident.

The upgrades continue inside, with a quieter cabin with a reshaped dashboard, larger front seats and a more cavernous floor console.

The Outback's suspension has been retuned and Subaru has added Active Torque Vectoring that applies slight brake pressure to the inside front wheel during a turn.

The base 2.5-litre, four-cylinder engine produces a bit more peak horsepower (175 versus 173) and maintains the same torque rating of 174 pound-feet. The optional 3.6-litre six-cylinder continues to generate 256 horsepower and 247 pound-feet torque. The four-cylinder can be ordered with six-speed manual transmission, while a continuously variable transmission (CVT) is optional, but standard with the six-cylinder models.

The standard all-wheel-drive system has also been tuned for improved slippery-road performance. A new driver-controlled X-Mode adjusts the transmission and engine output plus the AWD system to reduce wheelspin.

X-Mode also adds Hill Descent Control (keeps vehicle speed to a crawl), Incline Start Assist (briefly holds the vehicle when starting on hills) and a Hill Holder System that prevents the Outback from rolling backward when stopped until the accelerator is pressed. When combined with the Outback's 22-centimere ground clearance, X-Mode makes the Outback more fit for rugged off-road duty.

– Wheelbase Media

Legacy continues to grow

A new challenger in the mid-size sedan league keeps an all-wheel-drive ace up its sleeve.

The Subaru Legacy has grown both in stature and size to become one of the most spacious mid-size four-doors on the market. It also matches the sedan pack leaders in attractiveness.

There is plenty of new stuff inside the updated cabin, including a more modern dashboard and a more centrally located touch screen display for the rear view camera and infotainment/navigation systems.

The Legacy's power plants carry over from 2014, although the base 175-horsepower, 2.5-litre four-cylinder receives slight changes to make it a bit lighter, quieter and more fuel-efficient. It's rated at 9.0 l/100 km in the city and 6.5 on the highway. Those numbers are achieved with a continuously variable transmission (CVT).

The optional 3.6-litre, six-cylinder produces 256 horsepower and 247 pound-feet of torque. The four-cylinder can be ordered with six-speed manual transmission, while a CVT is optional, but standard with the six-cylinder models.

The all-wheel-drive system — standard on all Legacy models — has been augmented for 2015 with torque vectoring. The system applies light braking to the inside front wheel while turning, which helps the Legacy rotate, thus helping to enhance steering control.

The base Subaru 2.5i arrives with numerous usual convenience features, including a 10-way adjustable power driver's seat. The 2.5i Touring adds a power sunroof, dual-zone climate control, push-button start and 17-inch alloy wheels (16-inch steelies are standard).

Pop for the 2.5i or 3.6R Limited and you get perforated leather seats, power passenger seat, 576-watt Harmon/Kardon-brand audio system and 18-inch wheels.

– Wheelbase Media

Subaru Legacy. CONTRIBUTED

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Only 100,524km's - red exterior in excellent condition no dents or scratches - dark interior with no rips, tears or burns, non-smoking and no pets.

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All Wheel Drive, Factory warranty 5 yrs power train, 16inch alloy wheels rear spoiler pwr windows and locks heated seats and sunroof and much more Car proof Avalible . 66,394 Km's Excellent Condition No dent or scratches.

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BB3704

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Only 13335 km's - white exterior in excellent condition no dents or scratches - dark interior with no rips, tears or burns, non-smoking and no pets - full interior and exterior detailing performed and cosmetic reconditioning

$510 BIWEEKLY @ 96 MONTHS

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S15132A

2008 BMW 335 XI

2 door coupe sports car only 110,332kms in excellent shape, fully reconditioned car, One owner car. The driver's car! This BMW is the perfect balance of luxury and fun. AWD, complete power group, A/C, CD player.

$324 BIWEEKLY @ 48 MONTHS

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S15203

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Only 41612 km's - silver exterior in excellent condition no dents or scratches - dark interior with no rips, tears or burns, non-smoking and no pets - full interior and exterior detailing performed and cosmetic reconditioning you need to see and drive this truck.

$193 BIWEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS

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S15125A

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Rare 5 speed manual trans only 77,657 km's - black exterior in excellent condition no dents or scratches - dark interior with no rips, tears or burns, non-smoking and no pets - full interior and exterior detailing performed and cosmetic reconditioning

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S14848A

2005 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S

Only 96,788kms Fresh trade in - Blue exterior in Excellent Condition, One owner car. Power Group.

$172 BIWEEKLY @ 24 MONTHS

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Only 20624 km's - black exterior in excellent condition no dents or scratches - dark interior with no rips, tears or burns, non-smoking and no pets lease return car , factory warrantee still remaining. heated seats, keyless entry.

$147 BIWEEKLY @ 96 MONTHS

SALE PRICE $23,999

BB3702A

2009 AUDI A3 2.0T

Legendary Quattro AWD, this sporty little Audi is sure to make a statement. Hatchback, power group, A/C, Leather, heated seats this car comes well equipped.

$150 BIWEEKLY @ 72 MONTHS

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BB3797

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BB3840

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S15356A

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2 door coupe. power locks. power windows. power adjustible rear view mirrors. 4 seats. rear bucket seats. large cargo area with tenneau cover included. 2 glove compartments for storage. a/c. fuel economy monitor. manual steering wheel tilt. front wheel drive. only 53,806 km

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S14842A

2008 FORD F-350 DIESEL

Only 191,361 km's - white exterior in excellent condition no dents or scratches - dark interior with no rips, tears or burns, non-smoking and no pets - full interior and exterior detailing performed and cosmetic

$227 BIWEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS

SALE PRICE $23,888

S13455C

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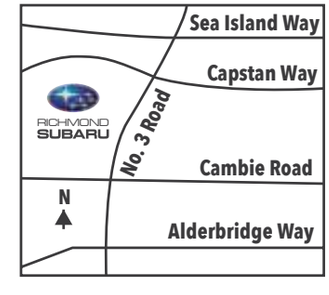

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EXPRESSIVE STYLE

Mazda6. CONTRIBUTED

STUNNING MAZDA6 INCLUDES MORE OPTIONS THIS MODEL YEAR

Mazda should be praised for following through on its promises. While other automakers make statements about losing weight and then abandon them like it's the third week of January, Mazda's SkyActiv philosophy keeps turning out cars that are trimmer.

From most angles, the Mazda6 is more expressive than the previous car and closely resembles Mazda's Shinari and Takeri concept cars that revealed a new styling direction. The distance between the front and rear wheels was increased by about five centimetres (the longest among its direct competitors, claims Mazda) for extra passenger room, while overall length has been reduced by about the same amount.

The only engine is a 2.5-litre, four-cylinder that generates 184 horsepower and 185 pound-feet of torque. The uniqueness of this engine is its higher-than-usual 13:1 compression ratio that gives it much of its extra punch. In addition, its specialized components, including the pistons and direct fuel-injection system (which cools the combustion chambers to allow the higher compression), means it can run on regular-grade fuel.

Transmission choices include a six-speed manual that uses a MX-5 Miata-inspired short-throw shifter, or the optional six-speed automatic.

The base GX model comes with the usual power and comfort ingredients and push-button start. It also comes with a touch screen display with Bluetooth networking and a rear view camera.

Among the more interesting options is Mazda's Intelligent Energy Loop (i-ELOOP). The system's compact capacitor stores energy from the alternator, then feeds it directly to the car's numerous electrical components. Mazda claims the i-ELOOP cuts fuel consumption by about five per cent. – *Wheelbase Media*

Mazda3 is a pacesetter among sedans

It's rare to find beautiful mainstream vehicles in this highly regulated, ultra-competitive market, but Mazda's redesigned sedan and hatchback models get the vote.

Mazda3. CONTRIBUTED

Like its Mazda6 and CX-5 brand mates, the Mazda3 benefits greatly from the SkyActiv suite of structural and powertrain enhancements. That means a stiffer platform and finely tuned suspension and steering components geared to sports-car-like precision.

But the real showstoppers are the base and optional power plants. There is a 2.0-litre four-cylinder that produces 155 horsepower and 150 pound-feet of torque; the optional 2.5-litre four-cylinder peaks with 184 horsepower and 185 pound-feet of torque. Both are available with six-speed manual transmissions, while six-speed automatics are optional.

Regardless of your choice, the new Mazda3 is an impressive piece of work that will be appreciated by those who really enjoy driving something sporty, but without the space limitations that traditional sports cars impose.

– *Wheelbase Media*

Mazda CX-5. CONTRIBUTED

ATTRACTIVE CX-5 OFFERS PLENTY OF ROOM

Mazda makes one of the most enjoyable tall wagons to drive, which doesn't punish you or your passengers.

The attractively designed five-passenger CX-5's mechanical bits are promoted under the SkyActiv name that made its initial appearance with the 2012 Mazda3.

More than simply a marketing slogan, SkyActiv represents a holistic transformation of the powertrain, plus various other components that help save fuel in addition to turning Mazda vehicles into better driving machines.

From a chassis and suspension perspective, the automaker's engineers have attempted to infuse the vehicle with as much MX-5 Miata-type sporty behaviour as possible, combined with highly efficient engines and transmissions.

The base power plant consists of a high-compression, 2.0-litre four-cylinder that, due to its unique design, is able to run on low-grade 87-octane fuel. Output is rated at 155 horsepower and 150 pound-feet of torque.

The much peppier 2.5-litre, four-cylinder produces 184 horses and 185 pound-feet of torque. Both engines are available in front- or all-wheel-drive, but the 2.0 is the only engine that can be had with a manual transmission (front-wheel-drive only).

The base GX includes the 2.0 and the usual air conditioning and power-operated items, along with cruise control and push-button start.

Head up the line and you will find the GS and GT models, both equipped with the 2.5. The top-end GT comes with a nine-speaker Bose-brand audio system, 19-inch wheels, standard all-wheel-drive, dual-zone climate control and leather seats.

In terms of safety, optional Active Smart Braking Technology can "see" stopped cars in front and slow you down before a collision.

Other safety features include front airbags, side-impact airbags, anti-lock brakes, stability control, and traction control. – *Wheelbase Media*

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GT model shown

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GT models shown

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Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Cosy meets show-stopping in one dish

Lunch or dinner. Crab Chowder in a Sourdough Bread Bowl makes for an impressive presentation

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

This recipe serves four. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Hearty, filling and warm: Isn't that what everyone is craving this time of year? This show-stopping crab and sourdough, recipe makes a perfect meal soup for a cold winter's day.

Ingredients

- 1 leek, white part only, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, peeled and diced
- 1/4 cup (57 g) butter
- Salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup (35 g) flour
- 2 cups (500 ml) chicken broth
- 2 cups (500 ml) milk
- 2 cups (330 g) potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 3/4 lb (375 g) fresh crab meat OR 3 cans (120 g/4 oz each) crab meat, drained
- 1 cup (135 g) corn kernels
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) 35% cream
- 4 slices bacon, cut crosswise into small pieces
- 4 small round loaves sourdough

1. In saucepan over medium heat, soften leek and carrot in butter. Season with salt and pepper. Dust with flour and stir to combine. Add broth and bring to boil while whisking. Add milk, potatoes and thyme.

2. Slowly bring back to boil and simmer gently, frequently scraping bottom of pan, until veggies tender, about 15 minutes. Add crab, corn and cream. Simmer 5 minutes. Remove thyme and adjust seasoning.

3. Meanwhile, in skillet over medium heat, cook bacon until crisp. Drain on paper towels.

4. On clean surface, slice top off each bread loaf. Using fingers, hollow out loaves, leaving 1 inch (2.5 cm) of crumb all around. Ladle hot soup into bread bowls. Sprinkle with bacon bits.

FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.

Liquid Assets

Chowder's liquid partner

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Pairing wine with liquid-centric meals can be tricky business — even when it comes to a heartier, protein-based staple like chowder.

Though populated with chunks of seafood, this classic winter warmer still has fluidity that can water down a wine.

As with any food and wine pairing, use the ingredient that has the most influence in the dish as your guide.

In Chef Ricardo's Crab Chowder recipe, featured this week, it's a combination of the shellfish and the creaminess of the broth.

Both components work best with a white wine.

The apple fruit found in a glass of German Riesling will make a great partner, as would a French or New World Chardonnay, especially one that highlights the grape's rich mouth-feel rather than oak aging.

Louis Latour's 2012 Bourgogne Chardonnay ($19.95 - $26.79) is aged in stainless steel, putting the focus on its bright flavour profile which will work wonders with the recipe's creamy texture and the sweetness of the crab meat. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

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Seattle Super Seven Dip. Snack for the Seahawks

Ingredients

- 8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 2 cups finely grated red cabbage
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh chives
- 3 tablespoons blackberry jam
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- Splash of hot sauce
- 16 ounces well-drained crab meat, preferably Dungeness
- 1/2 cup teriyaki sauce
- 6 ounces smoked mussels, lightly chopped

In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat the cream cheese until light and fluffy. Add the milk, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating until smooth and fluffy. Stir in the sour cream, then set aside.

In a medium skillet over medium, heat 1 tablespoon of the olive oil. Add the onion and cook, stirring frequently, until well browned and caramelized, about 15 to 20 minutes. If the onion begins to stick, add a tablespoon of water and continue to cook. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, combine the cabbage and chives. In another bowl, whisk together the jam, vinegar, a pinch each of salt and pepper, the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil, and a splash of hot sauce.

To assemble the dip, spread the crab over the bottom of a large, shallow baking dish. Drizzle with the teriyaki sauce. Spread the whipped cream cheese over the crab, spreading evenly to the edge of the bowl. Spread the caramelized onions evenly over the cream cheese, then top with the chopped smoked mussels. If making ahead, wrap and refrigerate for up to 24 hours. When ready to serve, heat the oven to 350 F. Bake for 20 minutes, or until warmed through. Arrange cabbage mixture over the top and drizzle with blackberry vinaigrette. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Seattle Super Seven Dip, left, is made with teriyaki-seasoned Dungeness crabmeat, cream cheese, caramelized onions, smoked mussels, purple cabbage slaw and blackberry vinaigrette. It takes about 30 minutes to make. The New England dip is made with barbecued pulled pork, sautéed apples and butter. It takes about 1-1/2 hours. Both dips serve 16 people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New England Super Seven Dip. Pig out for the Patriots

Ingredients

- 1 pound pork tenderloin, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 3/4 cup barbecue sauce
- 8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 medium apples, peeled, cored and diced
- 1 cup thawed corn kernels, well drained
- 3 thinly sliced scallions
- Splash of hot sauce
- 15-ounce can baked beans, partially drained
- 1 1/2 cups shredded extra-sharp cheddar cheese
- 2/3 cup crumbled crisp-cooked bacon

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine the pork tenderloin with the broth. Bring to a simmer, then cover and cook until very tender, about 45 minutes. Discard the broth. Using 2 forks, shred the meat, then transfer to a medium bowl. Add the barbecue sauce and toss until coated

While the pork cooks, prepare the other ingredients. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat the cream cheese until light and fluffy. Add the milk, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating until smooth and fluffy. Stir in the sour cream, then set aside.

In a medium skillet over medium-high heat, melt the butter. Add the apples and cook until just tender. In a small bowl, stir together the corn kernels, scallions and hot sauce.

To assemble the dip, spread the corn mixture over the bottom of a large, shallow baking dish. Top with the pork, then with the apples. Spread the whipped cream cheese evenly over the apples, spreading to the edge.

Spoon the baked beans over the cream cheese, then top with the cheddar and bacon. If making ahead, wrap and refrigerate for up to 24 hours. When ready to serve, heat the oven to 350 F. Bake for 20 minutes, or until warmed through.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAST CHANCE TO PLEASE YOUR PALATE AT THE 2015 DINE OUT VANCOUVER FESTIVAL

Tourism Vancouver's 2015 Dine Out Vancouver Festival is heading into its last weekend, but there are still a baker's handful of culinary events scheduled for those who have put bookings on the back burner. This evening, Off the Eaten Track hosts a culinary exploration of Main Street – the land of tiki hideaways and local bakeries – with plenty of opportunity to poke around this colourful neighbourhood. For all you Instagrammers, Off the Eaten Track and Vancouver Photowalks have combined forces to present a Food-tography Tour that enhances a culinary jaunt to three Railtown eateries with a professional photography lesson (three tours are running throughout the weekend). Diners with refined palates will enjoy tucking into The Urban Tea Merchant's indulgent five- and eight-course tasting menus, which feature delicacies ranging from tea-infused crusted rack of lamb to tea-infused sweet potato soup, all paired with – you guessed it – tea. And before you all slip into a food coma, strap on your boots for a tasting trek around the West End and Commercial Drive, courtesy of Vancouver Foodster's neighbourhood Brunch Crawls. Getting hungry? Book your events at **www.dineoutvancouver.com/events.** And don't forget to share your savoury snapshots with @**DineOutVanFest** using the hashtags **#dovf** and **#MyDineOutStory**.

For the full details:
DineOutVancouver.com

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Effective in different ways

Contrasting coaches.
Belichick, Carroll have risen to the top in their profession with football IQ that 'is way up there'

Put Bill Belichick behind a microphone and he's C-SPAN — minus the information.

Pete Carroll is more like a Lifetime movie. Or, as defensive lineman Michael Bennett puts it, "He has that Benjamin Button effect on everyone."

Bill Belichick
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Super Bowl coaches approach their obligations to the public and media from opposite ends.

Belichick, coaching for his fourth championship in New England, is dry, offers little to no insight and rarely makes anyone laugh. Carroll, looking for his second straight title, is a high-fiving, fist-bumping extrovert who started one of his news conferences this week with a welcoming, "What's up?!"

Different styles have produced similar results, though.

Belichick is making his sixth Super Bowl appearance as a head coach and his Patriots are as close as there is to a dynasty in the current NFL. Carroll's team is being mentioned as a possible dynasty, as well, and that notion will only gain steam if the Seahawks win Sunday and become the first back-to-back champions since New England in 2003-04.

Dissimilar as they are, they have both built their teams on a foundation of unflinching candour inside their locker and meeting rooms — a quality Carroll brings to some of his public speaking, but one that Belichick eschews.

"What you see on TV is what you get, pretty much, from the two," said Patriots cornerback Brandon Browner, who previously played for Carroll in Seattle. "They have similarities too, though. Their football IQ is way up there. They are so different, but at the same time, they're the same. That's why they both have succeeded at this level."

Patriots owner Robert Kraft, who hired Carroll back in 1997, then Belichick in 2000, called his former coach, "pretty special to be around. A lot of fun."

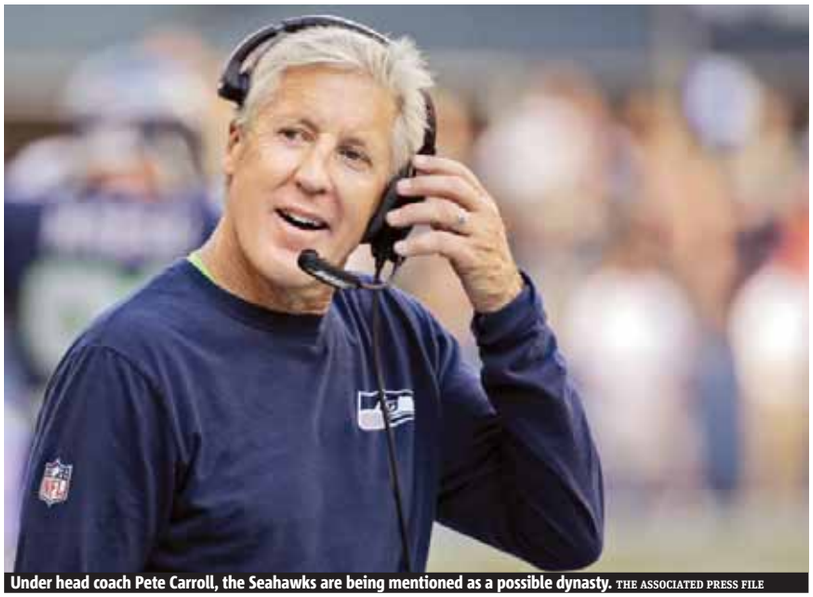
He feels he set Carroll back by not giving him the full control he wanted, and the owner adjusted his style when he made the next hire.

Everyone benefited: Belichick and the Patriots — and Carroll and Seattle.

There's no big mystery to all this coaching success, Belichick insists.

"It's about players making the plays that your team needs to win," he said. "I think as a coach, you want to make sure you don't screw that up."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Under head coach Pete Carroll, the Seahawks are being mentioned as a possible dynasty. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Regular-season statistics

SEAHAWKS		PATRIOTS
12-4	Record	12-4
375.8 (9th)	Total offence	365.5 (11th)
267.1 (1st)	Total defence	344.1 (13th)
24.6 (10th)	Points	29.2 (4th)
15.9 (1st)	Points against	19.6 (8th)

* Rankings are based on per-game averages from NFL.com

Lynch explains why he doesn't talk

Marshawn Lynch changed the script and fired back at his critics.

After two days of giving only scripted answers, the Seattle Seahawks' star running back gave his most extensive comments of Super Bowl week, mostly telling reporters why he won't talk to them.

"I don't know what story y'all trying to get out of me. I don't know what image y'all trying to portray of me," Lynch said Thursday. "But it don't matter what y'all think, what y'all say about me because when I go home at night, the same people that I look in the face — my family that I love, that's all that really matter to me. So y'all can go make up whatever y'all want to make up because I don't say enough for y'all to go and put anything out on me."

Fines add up

$100K

In November, the NFL fined Lynch $50,000 for violations of the league's media policy in addition to collecting the $50,000 fine that was imposed against Lynch for violations last season.

When Lynch arrived at the podium, a man with a reporter's credential who said he was a teacher asked him to give his students a "shout-out."

But Lynch wouldn't bite and began his unscripted statement.

"Y'all shove cameras and microphones down my throat," Lynch continued. "But when I'm at home in my environment, I don't see y'all, but y'all mad at me. And if you ain't mad at me, then what y'all here for? I ain't got nothing for y'all, though. I told y'all that."

Lynch, who had spurned reporters' efforts to get him to talk at mandatory news conferences Tuesday and Wednesday, seemed frustrated that they were still trying.

"I'm here preparing for a game. And y'all want to ask me these questions, which is understandable. I could get down with that. But I told y'all. I'm not about to say nothing ... All of my requirements are fulfilled."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marshawn Lynch spoke Thursday, largely ignoring reporters' questions.
MATT YORK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SUPER BOWL XLIX

Sizing up the competition

The extremes between the players in Sunday's Super Bowl THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weight

Heaviest

335 lbs.

New England offensive lineman Marcus Cannon

Lightest

185 lbs.

Seattle defensive back Marcus Burley

Height

OTTO GREULE JR/GETTY IMAGES

Tallest

6'8"

New England offensive linemen Sebastian Vollmer — pictured above towering over his teammates — and Nate Solder

Shortest

5'10"

Twelve players clock in at this height (six on each team)

Paycheque

Highest-paid offence

$14.1M

The average annual salary of Patriots quarterback Tom Brady

Highest-paid defence

$14M

The average annual salary of Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman

Lowest paid

$420K

The average annual salary of undrafted rookies on both teams

Willson, Ryan represent true north

Canadian content.
Punter says his second Super Bowl "is really a dream come true"

Canada will have a pair of players to root for in the Super Bowl for the second straight season: Seahawks tight end Luke Willson and punter Jon Ryan.

Willson, who grew up outside Windsor, Ont., made his way to the NFL after playing at Rice University, where he learned a quick lesson in how big football is in the United States.

"It was pretty intense, especially coming from Canada," Willson said. "It was a very, very different atmosphere. Football is almost like a religion down there."

Ryan, of Regina, Sask., never got to experience football in America until he ended up in the NFL — with Green Bay in 2006 — by way of the CFL and the University of Regina.

Quoted

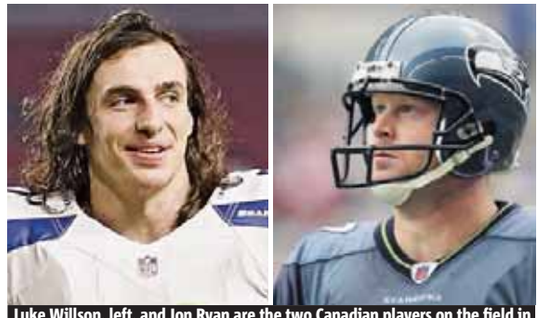
"It was kind of cool ... to have that many people care about the game of football."

Luke Willson, who grew up in Windsor, Ont., about the moment he realized the game is "almost a religion" in the U.S., when he played for Rice University.

"Growing up in Canada, I never thought I'd have the opportunity to play in the NFL," said Ryan, who threw a touchdown pass on a trick play in Seattle's comeback win over the Packers in the NFC Championship. "Now to have been playing here for nine years, playing in my second Super Bowl is really a dream come true."

The Seahawks have one other foreign-born player on its roster: Defensive lineman Jesse Williams, who was born in Brisbane, Australia. He spent the season on injured reserve after injuring his knee during fall camp.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Luke Willson, left, and Jon Ryan are the two Canadian players on the field in this Sunday's Super Bowl. GETTY IMAGES FILE

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SUPER BOWL XLIX

Jon Hameister-Ries competes on MasterChef Canada, premiering Sunday night on CTV. CONTRIBUTED

Ex-Lion concocts super dish for Super Bowl

Festivities.
Hameister-Ries' secret passion takes him from gridiron to kitchen

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

A day at the beach, barbecuing for friends or family — well, that's paradise as far as Jon Hameister-Ries is concerned.

"If I had one day off the whole year, I'd spend it cooking for people," said the former B.C. Lions offensive lineman.

Hameister-Ries got his initial culinary inspiration from his grandmothers of English and Ukrainian heritages. "Amazing cooks," he called them both. Preparing gourmet food has become his passion.

He'll appear as a finalist on the second season of MasterChef Canada, which premieres right after the Super Bowl on Sunday.

Jon Hameister-Ries has his dish examined by MasterChef judge Michael Bonacini during the second season of MasterChef Canada. CONTRIBUTED

As a football player, his job was to protect the quarterback. That can be a chaotic and technical task, requiring physical and mental strength to handle the feverish pace and pressure.

Still, competing in the MasterChef Canada kitchen doesn't involve grappling with an opponent weighing in excess of 250 pounds.

Instead, it's a race against the clock to prepare the best dish possible for three judges — Alvin Leung, Claudio Aprile and Michael Bonacini — who are all experienced and renowned chefs and restaurateurs.

"I was in the zone," said Hameister-Ries, who now lives in Vancouver. "It was just an amazing, amazing experience."

Speaking of experiences: the Super Bowl goes Sunday between the Seattle Seahawks and New England Patriots.

Ravenous eating habits and unique dishes and recipes have become the order of the day, be it for the Grey Cup or the Super Bowl.

Hameister-Ries shared his favourite Super Bowl dish: a bacon-bomb meat explosion in the shape of a football.

(At this time, we'd ask you to refrain from drooling on your newspaper.)

It contains chicken, pork and beef sausage, diced onion, jalapeno peppers that have been diced and the seeds removed, mushrooms and barbecue sauce essentially wrapped in a bacon weave and cooked either on the barbecue or oven.

"That's a must," said Hameister-Ries. "Just put it out there for everyone and just get after it."

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Crime. Hernandez trial underway in Massachusetts

With his ex-teammates about to play in the Super Bowl, former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez went on trial on murder charges Thursday, watching from the defence table as prosecutors said DNA on a shell casing and security-camera video from his own home connect him to the crime.

Hernandez's lawyer countered that the NFL player had "the world at his feet" and had no reason to kill. He repeatedly told jurors that the athlete is innocent and said authorities "locked" in on him as a suspect early on, ignored evidence and conducted a "sloppy and unprofessional" investigation.

Hernandez, 25, is charged in the 2013 shooting death of Odin Lloyd, a 27-year-old semi-pro football player who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée. Lloyd's bullet-riddled body was found in an industrial park near Hernandez's North Attleborough, Mass., home.

Hernandez — who had a $40-million contract as a tight end but was cut by the Patriots just hours after his 2013 arrest — could get life in prison if convicted.

In a separate murder case that has yet to come to trial, Hernandez was charged last year in Boston with killing two men in 2012 after someone spilled a drink on him at a nightclub.

Aaron Hernandez
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Prosecutors in this trial have suggested that Lloyd may have been killed because he knew too much about that crime. But the judge has ruled that prosecutors cannot tell the jury about those slayings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prosecutors' claim

In opening statements Thursday, District Attorney Patrick Bomberg showed the jury before-and-after security video to connect Hernandez to Lloyd's killing.

- Prosecutors say Hernandez and two of his friends drove Lloyd to the industrial park and shot him. The two friends are awaiting trial.

Ryan Miller led the Sabres to the Eastern Conference final in both 2006 and 2007. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Miller set to face old team for first time

NHL. Goalie passed on chance to play against Sabres last season after being traded to St. Louis

Ryan Miller wasn't ready to face the Buffalo Sabres last season.

After getting traded by the only NHL organization he had ever known, the veteran goalie was given the choice by the St. Louis Blues of facing his old team or watching from the bench when the clubs met in early April.

Miller chose the latter and instead started against the Philadelphia Flyers two days earlier.

Now a member of the Vancouver Canucks, the 34-year-old will finally suit up against the franchise that drafted him when the Sabres visit Rogers Arena on Friday night.

"I'll pay special attention not to pass the puck towards the Buffalo symbol," Miller joked after Thursday's practice. "It's going to be nice to see some of the faces over there. But part of hockey is having fun competing against your friends, former teammates, colleagues.

"This is a chance to play against a team and an organization that does mean a lot to me."

A fifth-round pick back in 1999, Miller was the face of the Sabres for nine seasons and helped the team to the Eastern Conference final in both 2006 and 2007.

"A lot things to be proud of coming out of Buffalo," said Miller, who signed with the Canucks as a free agent in July. "Disappointed we didn't achieve our goals there. We were close a couple times and pushing towards a Stanley Cup and we fell short and that's obviously frustrating.

"The group of guys I played with, that was a lot of fun."

Vancouver captain Henrik Sedin, whose team is coming off a disappointing 4-0 loss to the Anaheim Ducks on Tuesday, said the Canucks want to make sure their netminder has a memorable night.

"He spent a lot of years in Buffalo," said Sedin. "For anyone coming back and playing their former team, even if it's at home here, I'm sure it's a special night for him. He's been so good for us so we've got to help him as much as we can."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I hope they find that energy and continue to play hard because they have a lot of talent on that team."

Ryan Miller on the Sabres

Tiger's chipping struggle

Keegan Bradley, not shown, didn't get nearly as much attention as he motored around TPC Scottsdale with seven birdies for the lead among the early starters with a 6-under-65. Ten shots behind with faulty chipping, Woods was the focus for the crowd. RICK SCUTERI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Lions sign former NFLer Collie

It's a potential high-risk, high-reward situation.

The B.C. Lions are aware of Austin Collie's concussion history, but believe the former NFL receiver can still be productive.

That's why the Lions took the chance and signed the free agent in a deal that was announced Thursday. The 29-year-old Collie, born in Hamilton, Ont., will occupy a national spot on the roster.

In 49 games in the NFL, including 42 with the Indianapolis Colts, Collie registered 179 catches for 1,908 yards and 16 touchdowns. His rookie season was his most productive, helping the Colts to the 2009 Super Bowl after 123 yards receiving in the AFC championship game that year.

"It could be huge," Lions general manager Wally Buono told Metro. "When … you look at the success he had in the NFL, and if you believe, which we believe, he's still at a point where he can be productive, I think it could be a big acquisition for us."

It's a tantalizing move for the Lions. They get a player who has had some success in the NFL.

Buono said the club's medical staff will examine Collie carefully, given his concussion history. He also missed almost the entire 2012 season due to a patellar tendon tear in his right knee, according to numerous reports.

"I believe that when he gets here, our doctors will follow the proper protocol."

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Austin Collie played seven games with the NFL's Patriots in 2013.
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Wiggins heating up on frozen NBA tundra

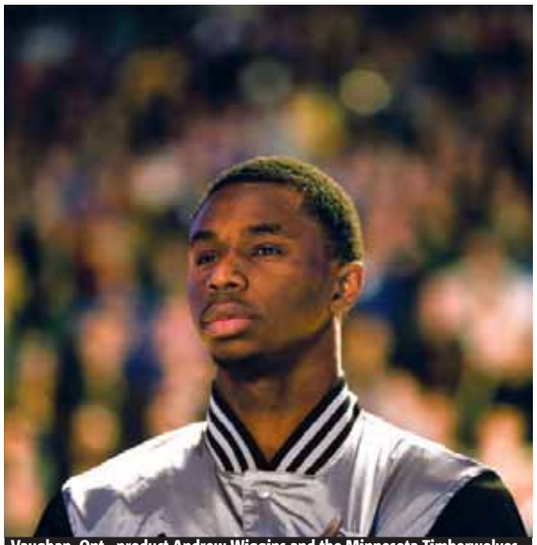
Basketball. Canadian phenom giving T-Wolves fans reason to hope in dismal season

In the throes of a sometimes-contentious negotiation on a contract extension with the Timberwolves, Ricky Rubio sat down at a table and started to recount the reasons he wanted to stay in Minnesota.

His first three seasons were filled with disappointment, injuries and losses, and the Wolves had recently traded the only established star they have had since Kevin Garnett. Kevin Love, who turned so many of Rubio's nifty passes into assists, was gone to Cleveland, leaving the point guard behind with a roster in flux.

But there was something about the crown jewel of the three-player package the Wolves got in return for Love; something about the way 19-year-old Andrew Wiggins carried himself under a spotlight that has blinded so many others; something in the way he moved in practice that told Rubio everything eventually was going to be OK.

"He always looks like he's going in slow motion while everyone around him is moving 100 miles per hour," Rubio said on that October night before the season began. "He's going to be great."



Vaughan, Ont., product Andrew Wiggins and the Minnesota Timberwolves host the Cleveland Cavaliers on Saturday night. The 2014 No. 1 pick was traded by the Cavs before the start of the season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wiggins isn't there yet, and everything is not OK in Minnesota. But three months into his rookie season, and a month before he turns 20, the No. 1 overall draft pick is starting to give the Timberwolves and their beleaguered fans hope that all these losses, all these growing pains, will eventually be worth it.

Wiggins leads all rookies in minutes, scoring and free throw attempts and has won Western Conference rookie of the month honours in each of the first two months of the season, with a third likely on the way.

"I would say there's been a lot of growing pains, a lot of stuff we're learning to get better at," Wiggins said. "I feel like all the young people, we're getting better every game, every situation we have."

He has scored in double figures in 19 straight games — averaging 19.4 points on 47.4 per cent shooting in 37.6 minutes in that span — and completely separated himself from the rest of the rookie class through the first half of the season.

Wiggins really started to kick things into gear when the Wolves visited the Cavaliers for the first time on Dec. 23. He scored 27 points and played with the aggressiveness his coaches and teammates were demanding of him.

"I did have a little hop in my step" because it was the team that traded him, Wiggins said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two-way player

Wiggins is nightly asked to guard the opponent's best perimeter player, and he's had success against the likes of Russell Westbrook (7 for 22), James Harden (8 for 23) and Eric Bledsoe (7 for 17).

NBA

Memphis breezes past Nuggets

Zach Randolph had 15 points and 17 rebounds, Jeff Green added 13 points and the Memphis Grizzlies built an early lead en route to a 99-69 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Thursday night.

Memphis won its fifth straight, building a double-digit lead in the first quarter and never getting threatened the rest of the way as Randolph recorded his 10th consecutive double-double.

Courtney Lee, Nick Calathes and Beno Udrih, starting in place of the injured Mike Conley, scored 11 apiece, while Marc Gasol had 10 points. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLS

TFC signs veteran French midfielder Benoit Cheyrou

Toronto FC continued its upgrade Thursday, signing veteran French midfielder Benoit Cheyrou.

The 33-year-old former Olympique de Marseille player gives the MLS club a formidable partnership with American international Michael Bradley in centre midfield.

Cheyrou, who parted ways with Marseille in October, brings a blue-chip resume to Major League Soccer. He helped Marseille win the French league title in 2009-10 as well as three consecutive French League Cup wins in 2010, 2011, and 2012. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Brodeur ends his playing days with a smile

Martin Brodeur may one day return to the New Jersey Devils, where he won three Stanley Cups and cemented his place as the goaltender with more wins than any other in NHL history.

Up first, though, is some serious time with the St. Louis Blues.

The 42-year-old Brodeur formally announced his retirement Thursday to take a front-office position with St. Louis, where he wrapped up his career after 21 outstanding years with the Devils.

"I'm leaving the game really, really happy," Brodeur said.

Over 22 seasons, Brodeur piled up a 691-397-176 record, 2.24 GAA and .912 save percentage in 1,266 regular-season games. The native of Montreal holds the league records for wins, shutouts, games played and minutes played. The two-time Olympic gold medallist also had 113 career post-season victories to go along with those three Cups and four Vezina Trophies as the NHL's top goaltender. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

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→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Today, the more certain people try to convince you that certain goals are beyond your reach the more determined you will be to prove them wrong.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The planets urge you to show the world you have nothing to hide — even if you do! Pretend you don't have a care. Others will be taken in by your act.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Your main aim today and over the weekend must be to push yourself harder. Believe in your abilities and that you are capable of more and, in time, your belief will make it a fact.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Mars and Pluto are nicely aligned today and you could not wish for a better influence to get things done. It is, of course, up to you what you choose to do with your time.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Keep your problems in perspective over the next 24 hours. You may wish that life was easier but in the greater scheme of things your "problems" are opportunities for you to grow.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
According to the planets you can do a lot of people a lot of good but only if you join forces with those who share your opinions and beliefs.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will soon be moving up in the world, which is good news for you but bad news for your rivals who will be moving down. Don't waste time feeling sorry for them.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You have a simple choice today: stand by your principles and lose out financially or reject your ideals and make money. How much will it cost you to buy your principles back?

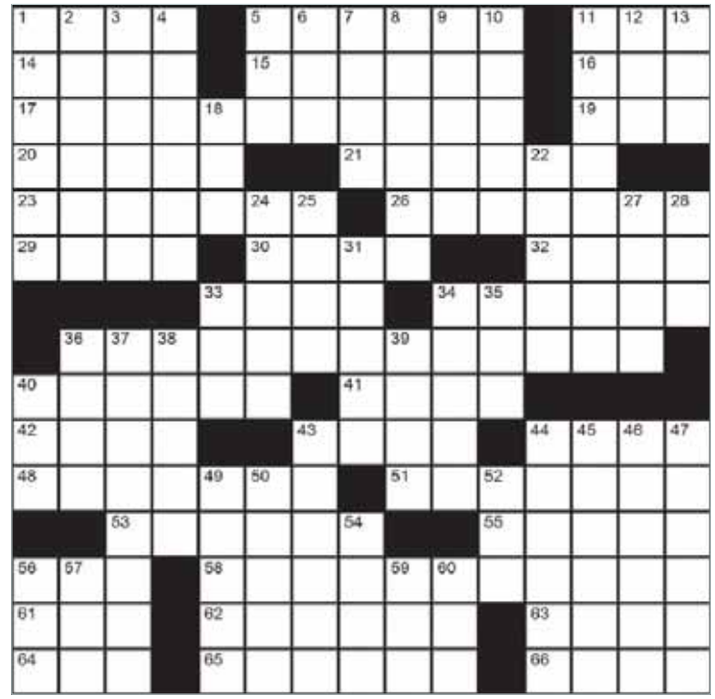
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You keep asking yourself all sorts of questions but the answers are so slow in coming. Don't let it worry you because some answers always take longer to arrive than others.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Certain people may be making life tough for you for no reason but that is no reason to feel sorry for yourself. Rise to the challenge and master it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may feel unprepared for the challenges that are coming your way but when it's time to act you will do so with courage and confidence.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You're lucky and if you don't believe it now you will this weekend. What you would attempt to do if you knew that success was guaranteed? Do it!

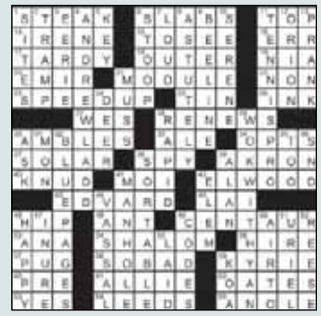
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Methods
5. Coffee menu items
11. Vancouver sch.
14. Stick _ __ in the water
15. Huge, in Hull
16. Philosopher, __-tzu
17. Winnipeg-born actor who is the voice of the computer HAL in #36-Across: 2 wds. (More at #58-Across!)
19. Samovar
20. Yawnsville
21. Bill Haley & His Comets hit word
23. Chateau __ (Historic building of 1705 that's a museum attraction in Old Montreal)
26. Despots
29. Slopes slider
30. Prunes
32. Former currency in Italy
33. Simple Minds singer Jim
34. Flipped up, as trousers
36. "2001: _ __ __" (1968)
40. Expects
41. House critters
42. Ruse
43. Groovy
44. Incline
48. Swiftly, in music
51. Piano performance
53. Articulate
55. Ancient marketplace
56. Compete
58. As per #17-Across, what HAL is short for... Heuristically programmed __ computer
61. Geog. feature
62. Steely Dan's "__' in the Years"
63. Prong
64. Positive gesture
65. 1974 Ray Stevens novelty song: "The __"
66. Wood sorrels

Down
1. Birds like the Ibis
2. Unkeyed, in music
3. Chicago hit of 1973: "Just __ '_' __"
4. Transitioned smoothly
5. __ & Perrins (Worcestershire sauce brand)
6. Ques. partner
7. Matador's victim
8. Pieces of land
9. English actress Ms. Blunt
10. Spanish courtesy title
11. Arctic cutting tool: 2 wds.
12. Exclude
13. "__ Air" (1997)
18. Ms. Hurley, briefly
22. The baby cow's
24. Sir Guinness'
25. From long ago
27. "South Park" co-creator Mr. Parker
28. Down
31. Movie trailer, e.g.
33. Nightspot in Broadway musical Cabaret, Kit __ Klub
34. Pedal
35. Operate
36. Missing from service, commonly
37. Queen Victoria's mother, Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-__ (b.1786 - d.1861)
38. High-tech dot
39. Luxury label
40. Dermatology procedure, _ _ _ peel
43. Kind of eel
44. "Okay then!", Brit-style
45. AECL = __ Energy of Canada Limited
46. Spot to dock yachts
47. Locales
49. Thickening gums
50. Rent a house again
52. "So You Think You Can Dance" host Ms. Deeley
54. Lacquered metalware
56. Wine, in Paris
57. Prefix meaning 'Equal'
59. Narrow inlet
60. Drawing liquid

Yesterday's Crossword

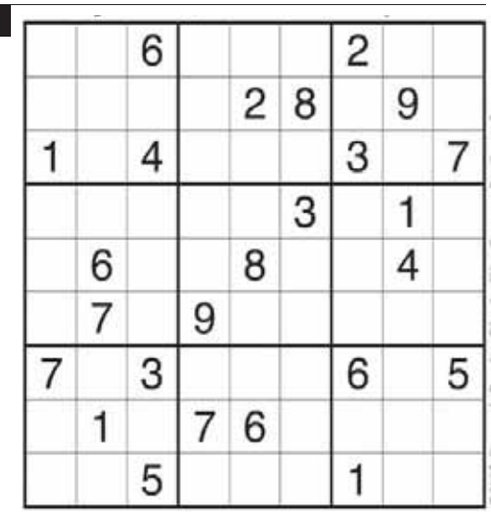


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

7	1	4	5	6	9	3	2	8
3	8	5	7	2	4	9	6	1
9	6	2	3	1	8	7	4	5
8	4	7	6	9	3	1	5	2
5	9	6	2	8	1	4	7	3
2	3	1	4	7	5	8	9	6
1	7	8	9	5	2	6	3	4
4	2	9	1	3	6	5	8	7
6	5	3	8	4	7	2	1	9

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